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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Proposal for the establishment of an Arab centre for climate change policies at ESCWA

Summary

At its fourth meeting, the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) approved a proposal to establish an Arab centre for climate change policies to prepare studies and build Arab capacity, especially in the field of climate change negotiations. The Executive Committee requested that the proposal be considered at the thirtieth session of the Commission. The centre will focus on the following five pillars of work: delivering technical assistance and advisory services; building capacity through institutional strengthening and policymaking; strengthening regional platforms for exchange, coordination and consensus building; promoting integrated responses to and management of climate-related challenges; and providing access to regional knowledge products, data and information.

The centre's substantive areas of work will focus on preparing Arab countries for climate change negotiations, supporting Arab countries in the preparation of projects for funding, assisting Arab countries in formulating climate change policies and measures in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and informing policies and projects through scientific assessments and evidence-based studies. The centre will be located at and managed by ESCWA. Core funding and staffing for the centre will be secured from the regular budget, with complementary funding for regional activities requested from extrabudgetary resources.

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction		1-3	3
Chapter			
I.	MANDATES FROM MEMBER STATES	4-10	3
II.	BACKGROUND	11-16	4
III.	VISION	17-18	5
IV.	PILLARS OF WORK	19-25	6
V.	INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE	26-31	7
VI.	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	32-37	8
VII.	NEXT STEPS	38-39	9

Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2017. The Committee approved a proposal to establish an Arab centre for climate policies focused on preparing studies and building the capacity of Arab countries, especially in the field of climate change negotiations. The Committee requested that the proposal be considered at the thirtieth ESCWA session.

2. The proposal, set out in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part III), provides background on climate change initiatives undertaken by ESCWA in the areas of climate change assessment, adaptation, mitigation, negotiations, financing and technology. It also reviews the experiences of other United Nations regional commissions in supporting member States on climate change, including the operations of the African Climate Policy Centre at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa since 2011. The proposal outlines the vision, work scope, components, work modalities, resource mobilization plan and the next steps for establishing an Arab centre for climate change policies at ESCWA.

3. The present report sets out the steps taken to establish the centre since the proposal was approved in December 2017. Based on mandates from intergovernmental bodies and feedback from member States and regional partners, there is consensus that the centre will provide an effective umbrella for consolidating and upscaling the climate change services and support offered by ESCWA to Arab countries.

I. MANDATES FROM MEMBER STATES

4. The proposal to establish an Arab centre for climate change policies was submitted to the Executive Committee at its fourth meeting, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Committee at its third meeting held in Rabat on 6 and 7 May 2017, which requested ESCWA to "prepare a comprehensive vision on establishing an Arab climate change centre within the secretariat, similarly to other regional commissions, covering the desired goals of the centre, funding sources and potential activities, to be presented at the next meeting of the Executive Committee".

5. At its third and fourth meetings, the Executive Committee welcomed the training activities implemented by ESCWA to build the capacity of Arab countries in preparing projects to request financing from international climate change funds. Moreover, at its fourth meeting, the Committee adopted the report of the twelfth session of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources (Amman, 22-24 March 2017), and the report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy (Cairo, 14-16 May 2017).

6. At its twelfth session, the Committee on Water Resources endorsed the first Arab climate change assessment report issued under the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR), and requested the ESCWA secretariat to provide additional resources to enhance regional knowledge in the areas of climate policies, assessment and adaptation. The Committee also recommended supporting Arab institutions and researchers in preparing scientific studies and peer reviewed articles; helping countries to develop strategic plans for combating climate change by identifying priorities and organizing capacity-building workshops focused on the importance of technology transfer, capacity-building and awareness-raising; assisting member States in preparing climate change project proposals to secure funding; and providing training on climate change adaptation using integrated water resource management tools and on the preparation of research proposals.

7. At its eleventh session, the Committee on Energy supported the development of an integrated vision for an Arab centre for climate policies based at ESCWA, setting out the centre's expected accomplishments, funding sources and activities for consideration and adoption at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

8. The centre's establishment was also supported by the Arab Ministerial Water Council at its tenth ministerial session (Kuwait City, 2 May 2018) through a resolution stating that the Council values the

efforts of ESCWA to establish an Arab climate change policy centre to support the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and advisory services to Arab countries on a range of climate change issues, and asks ESCWA to report on the status of establishing this centre at the next session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council.

9. Furthermore, Arab climate change negotiators attending the tenth Regional Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries, held in Kuwait in April 2018, recommended that the Arab centre for climate change policies should pursue activities related to climate finance and capacity-building to assist Arab States in preparing projects to secure resources from global climate funds; climate change accounting; implementing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) submitted by Arab States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the Paris Agreement, and translating NDCs into visions and action plans; conducting impact assessment and costing of response measures; and increasing understanding of the Paris Agreement and of carbon markets, transparency, and compliance modalities and finance.

10. In addition to resolutions and recommendations adopted through intergovernmental processes, Arab countries have requested ESCWA support on a variety of climate change issues, including repeated requests by the Arab Group of climate change negotiators and the League of Arab States to organize regional workshops; requests for training on climate change impact and vulnerability assessment tools from ministries of water, agriculture and environment in Egypt, Lebanon, the Sudan and Tunisia; requests from Iraq, Kuwait and Oman for technical assistance and seminars on climate change impact assessment findings and their implications; requests for technical training on sand and dust storms and seasonal forecasting from Arab meteorological services; technical assistance requests to support mitigation efforts pursued by Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen; and requests for training and technical contributions to support work on mitigation conducted by the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and the Arab Union of Electricity. The upscaling of collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Islamic Development Bank and the 11 RICCAR partner organizations is also underway. ESCWA is responding to requests and invitations for collaboration as swiftly as possible by drawing upon existing staff, extrabudgetary resources and funding provided through the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation.

II. BACKGROUND

11. Since the adoption of the first Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change, issued in December 2007 by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the assistance of ESCWA to its member States has been clustered around the following four themes: climate change assessment; adaptation; sustainable energy; and negotiations. Support in the areas of climate finance and technology is largely provided under a framework of regional preparations for climate change negotiations. These efforts have supported regional cooperation, coherence, capacity-building, positioning and understanding of the climate change challenges facing the Arab region.

12. As part of those efforts, ESCWA has been building the capacity of Arab climate change negotiators since 2013, in partnership with the League of Arab States and, more recently, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The workshops have assisted Arab countries prepare their NDCs, and have provided them with a regional platform to engage with the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to formulate project proposals for investment. They have also strengthened the work of the Arab Group of climate change negotiators by providing a common venue for exchange prior to global negotiation sessions, which has helped with information exchange and positioning with respect to Arab countries' priorities. Discussions on the Paris Agreement have informed regional perspectives on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology, capacity-building and transparency.

13. ESCWA has been coordinating RICCAR implementation since 2010, which provides a scientific basis for informing climate change policy and priority setting in the Arab region. The initiative is coordinated under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council in partnership with 10 international and regional organizations, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). These efforts resulted in the first *Arab Climate Change Assessment Report* in 2017, which provided regional climate modelling and hydrological modelling projections for the Arab region, and a vulnerability assessment of key socioeconomic sectors until the end of the century through a region-specific geospatial integrated assessment methodology. ESCWA also supports the establishment of an Arab climate outlook forum and a RICCAR regional knowledge hub to facilitate access to modelling outputs, training materials, datasets and technical reports focused on Arab priorities. Preparations are underway to launch the second phase of RICCAR activities, which will be incorporated into the centre's work.

14. A Sida-funded project on water and food security in the Arab region is drawing upon RICCAR datasets, tools and methods to provide training and technical assistance to Arab countries. Such activities build the capacity of ministries responsible for agriculture and water resources to conduct their own studies on the effects of climate change on the agricultural sector at various scales of analysis and for different crops.

15. The ESCWA-led United Nations Development Account project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools has issued a regional training manual comprising five modules focused on the environmental, agricultural, health, human settlements and economic sectors. The project and RICCAR were supported by the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region (ACCWaM) project led by GIZ.

16. ESCWA has also implemented a series of regional and interregional United Nations Development Account projects aimed at building the capacity of Arab countries on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation and sustainable development through renewable energy investments; promoting energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development through the formulation of energy efficiency investment projects; and promoting the water-energy-food security nexus within the context of climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Complementary activities have been implemented to support clean energy, including an expert workshop in 2017 on the use, transfer and storage of carbon technology in the Arab region, in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority of Bahrain. ESCWA is also a member of the Policy Group of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, and takes part in various technical and policy stakeholder meetings to support Arab countries.

III. VISION

17. The Arab centre for climate change policies will aim to strengthen the capacity of Arab countries to better understand and address the implications of climate change for sustainable development in the Arab region, by supporting science-based regional platforms, capacity development for institutional strengthening, and the provision of technical and policy advisory services for Arab countries and stakeholders in an integrated, multisectoral manner that considers national priorities within the context of regional challenges and global development goals.

18. The centre will be dedicated to helping Arab countries better prepare and respond to climate change challenges facing the region. Targeted beneficiaries of the centre's services and knowledge products will include ministries of planning, foreign affairs, energy, agriculture, water, environment and social and economic affairs. Intergovernmental councils and interagency committees focused on the preparation and implementation of NDCs and the achievement of the SDGs will directly benefit from the services and knowledge products generated by the centre. Specialized institutions and research centres able to inform policymaking will also be targeted beneficiaries of capacity development and knowledge generation exercises, with special attention given to involving women and young graduates in the centre's training programmes to support institutional strengthening and sustainability at the national level.

IV. PILLARS OF WORK

19. The Arab centre for climate change policies will serve United Nations member States located in the Arab region. The centre will focus on the following five pillars of work.

20. Pillar 1 will deliver technical assistance and policy advisory services to Arab countries based on collective or country-level requests. This includes providing demand-driven services to Arab countries in the areas of development planning, adaptation policies, climate change assessment, disaster risk reduction, technology transfer, and project preparation to finance NDCs so as to meet national targets. Support will also be provided through national and subnational applications of regional methodologies, models and toolkits, delivered through a minimum of five missions per year following requests from countries and will be complemented by scientific assessments to inform policymaking.

21. Pillar 2 will build the capacity of Arab countries and regional stakeholders through institutional strengthening and training, by providing technical training in the form of regional or national workshops on models, tools and financial instruments that support climate change negotiations, assessments, access to finance and technology transfer, and by offering regular updates to climate change negotiators and actors in Arab countries on new and emerging developments in the climate change arena. Under this pillar, governmental and non-governmental researchers will be trained on how to draw upon regional knowledge resources and publish articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals to better highlight the concerns and challenges facing Arab countries in international forums, including in global reports produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This will require conducting at least two regional workshops per year for Arab climate change negotiators, and delivering targeted training to specialized agencies and research institutions in Arab countries.

22. Pillar 3 will seek to strengthen regional platforms for regional knowledge exchange, policy coordination and consensus building, such as the Arab Group in their preparations for global climate change negotiations; regional dialogues that support Arab positioning with respect to climate change dimensions of global agreements (such as the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development); and an Arab climate outlook forum in delivering regional consensus outputs on common climate trends, seasonal forecasts and tailored climate services for various national and sectoral stakeholder groups. In addition to facilitating regular meetings of Arab country representatives serving on those platforms, at least one regional meeting will be held per year on the intersection between climate change policymaking and the SDGs.

23. Pillar 4 will promote integrated responses to and management of climate-related challenges affecting water, energy and food security and the livelihoods of vulnerable groups, by examining and advancing the means of implementation and the evidence needed to support the integrated management of natural resources and gender-sensitive policy and programme interventions in the areas of assessment, technology, finance, capacity-building and institutional coordination. This will require at least five national workshops per year to assist national stakeholders in drawing upon regional and global experience to inform climate action across sectors.

24. Pillar 5 will provide access to regional knowledge products, data and information through the expansion of the RICCAR regional knowledge hub to incorporate additional resources and technical tools informing climate change assessment, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, financing and technology transfer in key sectors in the Arab region. This will entail the development of geospatial information tools and applications that can assist Arab countries and stakeholders to better understand the implication of climate change across subnational and national boundaries. Requests for assistance and services could be funnelled through the regional knowledge hub using intergovernmental mechanisms or stakeholder requests to provide continual access to information and best practices and to support the generation of new scientific research and analysis. This will require strengthening in-house capacity in the generation and delivery of geographic information system products and services tailored to the needs of member States.

25. The Arab centre for climate change policies will also assist Arab countries in pursuing climate change action through global agreements related to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, financing for development, and regional Arab strategies and action plans related to climate change, disaster risk reduction, water security, agricultural development, energy and sustainable development.

V. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

26. The Arab centre for climate change policies will be based at ESCWA in the Sustainable Development Policies Division, and consist of a technical bureau and an online platform that builds upon the RICCAR regional knowledge hub.

27. The technical bureau will include at least two full-time officers with advanced experience in climate change in the Arab region, one programme officer and a part-time administrative assistant. At least one senior officer will be versed in climate change negotiations and means of implementation. The second technical officer will have advanced expertise in geospatial information tools and climate change modelling. The bureau will be supported by senior ESCWA staff within the Division and from other divisions to improve climate change mainstreaming and incorporation of climate-related risks to sustainable development in ESCWA activities. The bureau will also be supported by a bilingual programme officer responsible for planning, monitoring and reporting, coordinating communications with member States, and overseeing the preparation and dissemination of knowledge products.

28. The online platform will be responsible for disseminating knowledge resources, in complementarity with the RICCAR regional knowledge hub. The online presence of the hub consists of a website providing access to technical materials (managed by ESCWA) and a data portal to geospatial datasets and maps (managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). Regular reporting on the RICCAR regional knowledge hub will be provided to the Arab Ministerial Water Council's Technical, Scientific and Advisory Committee by ESCWA and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid and Dry Lands (ACSAD) of the League of Arab States, which jointly serve as the hub's secretariat. Requests for RICCAR-related support and services by member States will also be funnelled through the hub.

29. An advisory mechanism will be established to support regional consultations on the formulation and review of the centre's programme of work, and to promote coordination and coherence of the centre's activities across its pillars of work and with other national, regional and global climate change initiatives.

30. The centre will operate based on a biannual work programme, which will be implemented through the technical bureau with the support of substantive, programmatic and administrative ESCWA staff and regional and international partners. Regular monitoring and reporting of the centre's outputs and impacts will be included in reports prepared by the host division.

31. In addition to drawing upon the technical expertise of ESCWA staff, the secretariat maintains a strong network of partners and collaborators on climate change. This includes the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies (for instance, ACSAD, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development), sister United Nations agencies (for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN Environment, UNESCO, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization), international organizations (for instance, the International Renewable Energy Agency), climate research centres (for instance, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Cyprus Institute), and the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. ESCWA can bridge and bring added value to the work of those global and regional institutions by adapting support on climate change to the Arab context, and by fostering dialogue and exchange among member States. Strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones will support the quick operationalization of the centre's activities.

VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

32. The ability of ESCWA to deliver on the above work programme will depend on the availability of human and financial resources needed to render the Arab centre for climate change policies operational. An estimated budget of $6 million is required to sustain the centre for six years. This budget is estimated based on the provision of services and support to Arab countries through an ongoing series of programmes and activities focused on climate change assessment, adaptation, mitigation, negotiations, financing and technology transfer, which would be delivered through the above-mentioned five pillars of work.

33. Ensuring regular staffing and a reliable line of funding will reduce transaction costs associated with allocating human and financial resources in response to ad hoc and regular requests received from member States for support. This will allow for improved planning, coherence, coordination, efficiency and transparency of the knowledge products and services delivered to member States to support climate change policy. As an interim stop-gap measure, the six-month recruitment of a regional advisor on climate change is underway through the Regional Programme of Technical Cooperation to help the secretariat respond to the increasing number of requests from member States.

34. The provision of those services will require at least three regional meetings per year (two dedicated to climate change negotiations preparations) and five national capacity-building workshops per year (on climate assessment, adaptation planning and/or means of implementation). Outputs will include at least one regional report per year and two briefing notes per year, drawing on scientific analysis to inform regional exchange and policy discussion on pressing climate change topics for negotiation and action, which would be made available in Arabic and English and disseminated via the regional knowledge hub. These outputs and services will be delivered through the technical bureau with the support of dedicated personnel assigned to the centre and ESCWA staff. Collaboration with at least five institutional partners with demonstrated and advanced experience in climate change would complement the regional knowledge base available at ESCWA.

35. To deliver this work, the centre will need technical and programmatic staff ($1.8 million); partnerships ($1.2 million); equipment ($50,000); meetings, missions and travel ($1.89 million); contractual services for printing, translation, and others ($280,000); and programme support costs ($780,000) if funds are secured through extra-budgetary processes. Based on the estimated budget of $6 million, this allocates 30 per cent to staffing; 20 per cent to partnerships; 1 per cent to equipment; 31 per cent to meetings, mission and travel; 5 per cent to contractual services; and 13 per cent to programme support costs.

36. Preliminary discussions have already taken place with Sida with regard to continuing regional collaboration on climate change and water in the Arab region, with interest expressed in RICCAR follow-up activities. New regional projects are also coming online with Sida financial support and through the United Nations Development Account, which will contribute to the centre's activities. The Islamic Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund have expressed interest in contributing to and collaborating with the centre. Additional project funding for capacity development activities might be requested from the United Nations Development Account and through the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, which could provide support for the delivery of advisory services in response to requests from member States.

37. ESCWA has extensive experience in leading, coordinating and implementing climate change projects to support Arab countries. Climate change programming at ESCWA over the past seven years includes RICCAR ($4.1 million from Sida); ACCWaM ($470,500 plus in-kind support from GIZ); a regional initiative on small-scale renewable energy applications in rural areas in the Arab region ($5 million); and approximately $500,000 for each of the following six United Nations Development Account projects implemented over the last five years: capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia (2011-2013); promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development (led by the Economic Commission for Europe and implemented in partnership with the five regional commissions) (2012-2014); Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools (2014-2017); Developing the Capacity of

ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (2014-2017); Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development (led by ESCWA and implemented with the Economic Commission for Europe) (2015-2017); and Up-scaling Energy Efficiency in the Residential and Services Sectors in the Arab Region (2018-2020).

VII. NEXT STEPS

38. The preparation of detailed project proposals is underway in the light of ongoing consultations with potential donors and regional partners in support of the centre's five pillars of work. Member States are invited to advise ESCWA on specific technical assistance and capacity-building support they would like the centre to provide. In tandem, ESCWA will continue to strengthen and forge partnerships to support the operations and delivery of services through the centre.

39. ESCWA will report regularly to its ministerial sessions and the Executive Committee on progress achieved in the establishment and operationalization of the centre, and invites the thirtieth ESCWA session to adopt a resolution to that effect.

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Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre over the period 2016-2017

Summary

The present report sets out the activities implemented over the period 2016-2017 by the Technology Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), including advisory services, studies and technical reports, projects, workshops and partnerships, in relation to the Centre's expected accomplishments.

The report also presents the Centre's workplan for 2018 and its objectives towards achieving sustainable development, as adopted by the Board of Governors at its seventh meeting held on 27 November 2017. The workplan forms part of the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction		1-4	3
Chapter			
I.	**MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**	5-6	3
II.	**ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE IN RELATION TO ITS EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**	7-18	3
	A. Activities of the Technology Centre at the national level	8-16	3
	B. Advisory services	17	5
	C. Partnerships	18	6
III.	**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**	19-21	6
IV.	**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**	22	7
V.	**WORKPLAN OF THE CENTRE FOR 2018 AND ITS OBJECTIVES TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**	23-25	7
VI.	**FORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021**	26	8

ANNEXES

I.	Members of the Board of Governors for the period 2016-2018	9
II.	Member State nominees for the Board of Governors for the period 2018-2021	10

Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with the Technology Centre's statute, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/5 on the establishment of the Centre, which requires the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) to report on the Centre's work to the Commission at its regular sessions.

2. The report sets out the activities implemented over the period 2016-2017, including advisory services, studies and technical reports, projects, workshops and partnerships. It also summarizes the completed phases of the project financed by the United Nations Development Account on the establishment of national technology development and transfer systems in Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia, in collaboration with local partners in those countries. The report also lists the partnerships forged between the Centre and national, regional and international institutions and organizations.

3. The report then summarizes the periodic meetings of the Board of Governors and resulting decisions, and the meetings of the Centre's Technical Committee and its key recommendations on developing the Centre's workplan. The report also introduces the Centre's workplan for 2018 that was presented to the Board of Governors at its seventh meeting held on 27 November 2017; the workplan was adopted and included in the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

4. The present report requests the formation of a new Board of Governors for the period 2018-2021 at the thirtieth ESCWA session, in accordance with the Centre's statute.

I. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

5. ESCWA Technology Centre's statute states its mission is to provide support to member States and public and private institutions in acquiring the necessary tools and capacity to expedite economic and social development so as to achieve technological parity with other countries and regions across the world, and to contribute to transforming the economies of member States in to economies based on scientific and technological knowledge.

6. To fulfil its mission, the Centre builds the capacity of member States to establish and manage national systems to develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; to identify suitable technologies for the region, facilitate their development and transfer, and improve related legal and commercial frameworks; and to strengthen technological and scientific knowledge in key economic sectors in member States.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE IN RELATION TO ITS EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

7. The Centre has implemented various activities comprising advisory services, studies and technical reports, projects, workshops and national, regional and international partnerships in several member States.

A. ACTIVITIES OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Expected accomplishment 1: To map, analyse and improve components of national technology development and transfer systems and relevant legislation to obtain more productive systems and more coherent legal frameworks in support of more inclusive economic development.

Achievements

8. In collaboration with local partners, the Centre implemented the project funded by the United Nations Development Account and operationalized national systems and technology transfer offices in Lebanon, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia. Partners' focal points were trained in operational processes. Mauritania was added to the countries benefiting from the project through funding from the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Achievements include operationalizing national offices and networks for technology development and transfer in partner countries; amending legislation on science, technology and innovation and related policies so as to achieve interconnected national systems based on a study analysing the existing gap in national legislation; and preparing a road map for national innovation systems in participating countries, and models for policies on property rights and technology transfer at the institutional level.

Activities

9. The Centre's activities over the period 2016-2017 included convening the Regional Forum on National Knowledge and Technology Development and Transfer Systems in Beirut in November 2017. The Centre also published a study entitled "Technology Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Arab Countries" and a report on national technology transfer systems and innovation in Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia. In addition, the Centre organized five national workshops on effective national technology transfer systems, and four national workshops on technology management and innovation protection and commercialization.

Expected accomplishment 2: To strengthen the scientific content of various critical economic sectors with selective contributions related to adequate technologies for food security, green development and sustainable energy and water resources, which reinforce socioeconomic resilience in member States.

Achievements

10. The Centre published several studies and technical reports in the fields of emerging and appropriate technologies and green technology in member States, which contribute to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also forged numerous partnerships with economic sectors to promote and incentivize the use of emerging and green technologies. The Centre signed a joint agreement with the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization in Jordan and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing for nanotechnology-based projects on water desalination and solar energy exploitation in Arab countries.

Activities

11. The Centre organized and participated in several meetings, including the Arab Forum for Nanoscience and Technologies Applications on water desalination and solar energy in Arab countries, held by the Centre in Amman in October 2017, in collaboration with the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization; the Seminar on Islam and Science convened by the Centre in Amman in May 2016, in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan; and an expert group meeting on advancing green technology through the science-policy interface held by the Centre at ESCWA headquarters in April 2017, in collaboration with the ESCWA Food and Environment Policies Section.

12. The Centre, in collaboration with the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, published a report on the feasibility of manufacturing for nanotechnology-based projects on water desalination and solar energy exploitation in Arab countries. Moreover, in 2017, the Centre published a study on the Typology of green technology applications in Arab countries.

13. The Centre, in partnership with the Misr El Khair Foundation, held a workshop in Cairo in October 2016 on enabling inclusive development, in collaboration with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology.

Expected accomplishment 3: To facilitate regional cooperation in research, development and innovation to address challenges in identified regional sustainable development priorities such as water, energy, food security and climate change mitigation.

Achievements

14. The Centre continued its efforts to promote integration and collaboration between Arab countries by holding several meetings on scientific research and innovation. Those meetings facilitated the exchange of expertise on the role of regional cooperation in research and development to tackle sustainable development challenges, and to work on harmonizing national strategies and plans on sustainable development in the field of science and technology.

Activities

15. Under this expected accomplishment, the Centre held several expert group meetings over the period 2016-2017: the Arab Conference on Creativity, Innovation and Competitiveness held in Cairo in May 2016, in collaboration with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute; a special session on the role of scientific cooperation and regional integration in achieving the SDGs in Arab countries, held at the World Science Forum in Amman in November 2017; and an expert group meeting on ethics in scientific research related to technology applications in the Arab region, held in Beirut in July 2017, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon.

16. The Centre also organized several workshops and training sessions: an Arab consultative meeting on scientific guidance in policymaking, held in Amman in December 2016, in partnership with the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, the United States Civil Research and Development Foundation and the International Network for Government Science Advice; a regional workshop on linking scientific research institutes with industry in Arab countries, held in Amman in October 2016, in collaboration with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization; and another on research impact assessment, held in Amman in November 2016, in collaboration with the Qatar Foundation.

B. ADVISORY SERVICES

17. The Centre implemented four advisory services over the period 2016-2017 in Jordan and Lebanon. In Jordan, the Centre held a national workshop on harnessing national capacity in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. It assisted the National Centre for Research and Development of the Higher Council for Science and Technology in preparing a research and development strategy, and supported the Jordanian Scientists and Technologists Abroad project undertaken by the Higher Council to connect Jordanian scientists and technology experts living abroad with counterparts and research centres in Jordan. In Lebanon, the Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water, identified the main components of a road map for technology transfer in gas-related industries in Lebanon.

C. Partnerships

18. Over the period 2016-2017, the Centre implemented various activities in collaboration and partnership with several public and private institutions and civil society organizations in member States, as well as regional and international organizations. Table 1 sets out those institutions and organizations.

Table 1. Institutions that collaborated with the Centre in implementing its activities over the period 2016-2017

Number	Name of institution	Country/parent institution
1	Royal Scientific Society	Jordan
2	Higher Council for Science and Technology	Jordan
3	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation	Jordan
4	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology	Jordan
5	Jordan University of Science and Technology	Jordan
6	Qatar Foundation	Qatar
7	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research	Kuwait
8	Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization	League of Arab States
9	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization	Regional organization based in Jordan
10	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology	Egypt
11	National Council for Scientific Research	Lebanon
12	Ministry of Energy and Water	Lebanon
13	National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research	Morocco
14	Research Council of the Sultanate of Oman	Oman
15	University of Science, Technology and Medicine	Mauritania
16	National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research	Tunisia
17	Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization	League of Arab States
18	Misr El Khair Foundation	Egypt
19	Islamic World Academy of Sciences	Jordan

III. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

19. Annex I to the present report lists the members of the Board of Governors for the period 2016-2018.

Meetings of the Board of Governors over the period 2016-2017

20. The Centre's Board of Governors held its annual meeting for 2016 at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman on 14 November. The meeting was attended by representatives of 12 Arab countries. Discussions focused on the water-energy-food nexus, climate change, and the role of science and technology in that regard and their links to sustainable development policy management. The Board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee tasked with clarifying strategic goals and ways to incorporate technology initiatives into the nexus. The Board also stressed the importance of promoting emerging technology applications in the fields of water, energy and food, given that those fields were directly linked to daily necessities, especially in regions facing security issues and conflict. Pursuant to a recommendation by the Board, the ad hoc committee held a meeting attended by ESCWA representatives in Amman on 22 May 2017 to discuss the Centre's amended work process, and the role of science and technology in the water-energy-food nexus and climate change and its links to ESCWA Sustainable Development Policies Division. The committee underscored the importance of support, financing, partnership and flexibility, especially in view of the Centre's work and achievements in the past years.

21. The Board of Governors held its meeting for 2017 in Beirut on 28 November. Representatives of 10 Arab countries attended the meeting. Discussions focused on the Centre's activities for 2017, and the role of science, technology and innovation in achieving Arab sustainable development targets and indicators. The Board members were also briefed on regional preparations for the 2019 *Global Sustainable Development Report*. They discussed the proposed workplan for the Centre in the light of new processes to support member States and harness technology to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Their recommendations and suggestions focused on the necessity of developing a regional plan to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs and to exchange expertise, and of establishing a fund to implement the SDGs in Arab countries. The Board approved the Centre's workplan for 2018. It also called for greater regional cooperation in the field of rebuilding countries emerging from conflict and in other scientific and technological fields, especially solid waste management, and for securing financial support for that critical issue. It also urged Arab countries to benefit from technology transfer to identify solutions to urgent and ongoing problems, such as water, agriculture and waste.

IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meetings of the Technical Committee over the period 2016-2017

22. The Technical Committee of the ESCWA Technology Centre convened two meetings. The first was held in Amman in October 2016, and was attended by 30 experts from 12 Arab countries. Participants discussed various issues, including the priorities of the Arab region related to science and technology, and the possibility of linking them to the Centre's workplan. Their recommendations focused on coordinating with Arab and international organizations working in technological research and development, and identifying focal points. The second meeting was held in Beirut in May 2017, and was attended by 31 experts from 14 Arab countries representing regional organizations, scientific institutions, and various industrial and research centres. Participants discussed the Centre's workplan for the biennium 2018-2019, which would be presented to the Board of Governors at its next meeting. Most recommendations stressed the importance of focusing on policy, governance, culture and awareness-raising; and the need for comprehensive regulatory frameworks to bridge the gap between research and the private sector, for coordinating the science-policy nexus, and for promoting domestic programmes suitable to a development and innovation strategy supporting green energy solutions and the water-energy-food nexus.

V. WORKPLAN OF THE CENTRE FOR 2018 AND ITS OBJECTIVES TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

23. Pursuant to recommendations made by the ESCWA Executive Committee at its third meeting held in Rabat, on 6 and 7 May 2017, ESCWA will undertake various technology-related activities, including projects, studies, workshops and training sessions, and will provide advisory services to member States.

24. The Centre's workplan for 2018 is based on an approach that incentivizes joint Arab action, in partnership with stakeholders, pursuant to an ESCWA Executive Committee recommendation on technology that requests the secretariat to continue supporting Arab countries in ensuring that their national plans include methods to harness and invest technology for development, so as to promote sustainable development and encourage a shift towards the digital economy, smart societies and youth innovation for inclusive growth, with special focus on young people.

25. Table 2 sets out the main provisions of the Centre's workplan, which were reviewed and adopted by the Board of Governors at its seventh meeting held in Beirut on 27 November 2017, and which are consistent with the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019. It should be noted that some activities will continue being implemented in 2019.

TABLE 2. KEY PROVISION OF THE CENTRE'S WORKPLAN FOR 2018

Building stakeholder capacity and responding to countries' requests for advisory services
- Receive requests for technical services, and respond to them in line with priorities
Developing knowledge materials, conducting research and studies, disseminating information and promoting good practices
- Transfer and adapt technology to achieve sustainable consumption and production in Arab countries
- Prepare a report on the topic
- Hold a regional expert group meeting with stakeholders to validate outcomes and recommendations
- Conduct case studies on waste, water and energy management
- Carry out a study on innovative technologies to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector against the impact of climate change
Supporting member States in achieving the SDGs
- Promote the effective achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region by harnessing science and technology
- Draft a proposal for a project to strengthen Arab countries' capacity in adapting to climate change through South-South cooperation in agricultural technology transfer
- Prepare two scientific papers on ways to achieve sustainable development:
(a) Technology to expedite the achievement of sustainable development
(b) Investment for development
- Convene a session on technology for sustainable development in the Arab region at the thirtieth ESCWA session, to be held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018
Forging partnerships and coordinating with regional and international partners
- Hold a regional expert group meeting on ways to achieve the SDGs, in collaboration with the Regional Office of the United Nations Development Programme and other partners
- Conduct a workshop on governance of science parks and technological incubators, in collaboration with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization
Following up on activities for 2017
- Hold an expert group meeting in May 2018 on the sidelines of the Arab International Industrial Forum and its concomitant exhibition in Cairo, on the theme "Moving towards innovative sustainable development" to follow up on recommendations contained in a 2017 report on nanotechnology applications in water desalination and solar energy in Arab countries.

VI. FORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021

26. Pursuant to the Centre's rules of procedure, a new Board of Governors is currently being formed for the period 2018-2021. Nominations have been received from several member States. Annex II to the present report lists nominees for the Centre's Board of Governors for the period 2018-2021.

Annex I

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2018

Number	Country	Name	Job title	Institution
1	Jordan	Princess Sumaya bint el Hassan	President of the Royal Scientific Society	Royal Scientific Society
2	United Arab Emirates	Mr. Abdulla Sultan Alshamsi	Assistant Under-Secretary for Industrial Affairs	Ministry of Economy
3	Bahrain	Shaikha Rana bint Isa al Khalifa	Assistant Under-Secretary for Western Countries and Afro-Asian Affairs and Organizations	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mohammad al-Jalali	Former minister	Ministry of Communications and Technology
5	Sudan	Mr. Issa Tartib Shater	Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment
6	Iraq	Mr. Hussein Dawood	Director of the International Cooperation Directorate	Ministry of Planning
7	Oman	Mr. Obaid bin Mohammed al-Saeedi	Director of the Programmes Department	Research Council of the Sultanate of Oman
8	State of Palestine	Mr. Mohamad Badr	Adviser to the Minister	Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology
9	Qatar	Mr. Hamad al-Ibrahim	Executive Vice President of Research and Development	Qatar Foundation
10	Kuwait	Ms. Samira al-Sayed Omar	Director-General	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
11	Lebanon	Mr. Moeen Hamzeh	Secretary-General	National Council for Scientific Research
12	Libya	Mr. Ibrahim Tika	Director of the Science and Technology Department	Libyan Commission for Research, Science and Technology
13	Egypt	Mr. Mahmoud Mohamad Sakr	President	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
14	Morocco	Mr. Abdelhaq Mradi	Director of Scientific Research and Innovation	Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Professional Training
15	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Meteb bin Abdulaziz	Director of the Innovation and Industrial Development Institute	King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology
16	Yemen	Mr. Yahya al-Rawi	President	National Information Centre

Annex II

MEMBER STATE NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021

Number	Country	Name	Job title	Institution
1	Jordan	Princess Sumaya bint el Hassan	President of the Royal Scientific Society	Royal Scientific Society
2	United Arab Emirates			
3	Bahrain			
4	Tunisia			
5	Syrian Arab Republic	Ms. Fadia Suleiman	Director-General of the National Authority for Network Services	Ministry of Communications and Technology
6	Sudan	Mr. Ahmed Hassan Fahl	Chair of the Scientific Research and Innovation Authority	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
7	Iraq	Mr. Hussein Ali Dawood	Director-General of the Sectors Planning Department	Ministry of Planning
8	Oman			
9	State of Palestine	Mr. Mohamad Badr		Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology
10	Qatar			
11	Kuwait			
12	Lebanon			
13	Libya	Mr. Abu al-Qasim Mohammed al-Mashai	Senior Researcher – Associate Professor	Ministry of Education – Authority for Research, Science and Technology
14	Egypt			
15	Morocco	Mr. Mohamed Hajroun	Director of Electricity	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development
16	Saudi Arabia			
17	Mauritania	Mr. Mohammed Yahya al-Taleb Ahmed al-Daydah	Assistant Director-General for Policy and Development Strategies	Ministry of Economy and Finance
18	Yemen	Mr. Yahya al-Rawi	President	National Information Centre

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Thirtieth session
Beirut, 25-28 June 2018

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the Doha Declaration and other resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session

Summary

Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the closing of the twenty-ninth ESCWA session on 15 December 2016, in which they requested the secretariat to continue supporting the implementation process in line with the strategy approved by member States, and several resolutions on the session's topics of discussion.

The present document reviews progress by the secretariat in implementing activities set out in the Doha Declaration, especially in paragraph 27. Each group of activities contained in the Declaration is presented in bold, followed by the action taken by the secretariat. The document also reviews actions taken pursuant to the adopted resolutions. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress made and comment thereon.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. DOHA DECLARATION

1. In the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, member States requested the secretariat to undertake the following:

(a) Continue to produce informative material on the implementation of the Agenda at the national level, and to focus on local development requirements in rural and urban areas

Action taken

2. The Unit on the 2030 Agenda, established at ESCWA to support member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is conducting analytical research on best practices and trends in voluntary national reviews submitted by countries since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Under a project on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development aimed at strengthening the capacity of Arab countries, the Unit is working on publishing guides, developing guidelines and training material, and organizing regional workshops to raise awareness on adapting the SDGs and incorporating them in national plans.

3. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- A training workshop on implementing the 2030 Agenda on the Sudan, aimed at discussing the Agenda with the country team working on the national adaptation of the SDGs in the light of the background and elements of the national programme on sustainable development 2030, and at providing skills training on designing awareness-raising campaigns to ensure SDG achievement at the national level (Khartoum, 15-19 January 2017). Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders participated in the workshop, which can be adapted to the needs of other member States upon request.

- The Arab Preparatory Meeting on Energy-related Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which covered key sustainable energy issues and progress in achieving SDG 7 and the links between it and other development issues; and reviewed and evaluated major priorities for policymakers so as to increase consistency between national plans and the 2030 Agenda (Beirut, 27-28 March 2018).

- The Arab Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, during which participants exchanged expertise, considered indicators on water resources and discussed ways to enhance dialogue between Arab stakeholders on all water-related indicators, especially those under SDG 6 (Beirut, 28-29 March 2018). The outcome document was discussed at the tenth session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, held in Kuwait from 2 to 4 May 2018.

- The Arab Preparatory Meeting on Environmental and Natural Resources Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which considered the path towards achieving SDG 11 (Cairo, 11-12 April 2018).

- An expert group meeting on Arab regional challenges associated with conflict and the 2030 Agenda, in which participants, including representatives of regional and multilateral bodies and specialized civil society organizations, discussed challenges hindering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda due to conflicts and their repercussions (Beirut, 6-7 December 2017).

- A study on transport and the SDGs, which reviews the interlinkages between transport performance and the SDGs. It contains a set of guidelines to incorporate the SDGs in strategies and action plans in the field of transport in Arab countries. The study was used at a capacity-building workshop on strategic planning in the Palestinian transport sector, held in Beirut on 22 and 23 March 2017; and in transport planning discussions with staff of the Iraqi Ministry of Transport on 24 October 2017.

- A study on trade and the SDGs, which identifies the relationship between trade and several SDGs. The study presents the results of a survey on trade officials' vision for trade liberalization and sustainable development, and provides recommendations to Arab countries on ways to strengthen the role of trade in achieving the SDGs.

- A study on the links between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the SDGs in employment, industry and economic growth. The study aims to highlight the links between SDGs 8 and 9 and the WSIS action lines.

- A technical paper entitled "Next generation digital infrastructure: challenges and opportunities for development in the Arab region", aimed at analysing the links between WSIS action line 2 and SDG 9. The paper focuses on the priorities and challenges related to digital infrastructure in the Arab region.

- A regional report entitled "Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Arab Countries", based on SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17. ESCWA also published technical papers on conditional cash transfers in Arab countries; the impact of subsidy reform on society; the impact of expenditure changes on social protection in Arab countries; and the features of social protection in Mauritania and Tunisia, in support of target 1.3 on social protection.

- A working paper entitled "Slum upgrading in the Arab region", in support of the implementation of SDG 11.

- The Social Development Bulletin entitled "International Human Rights Law and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which covers legal commitments in SDG implementation.

(b) Prepare a concept paper on establishing an Arab forum for financing sustainable development in the region, which complements the role of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

Action taken

4. ESCWA prepared a concept paper on establishing an Arab forum for financing sustainable development in the region, which was discussed at the twelfth session of the ESCWA Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (focus on finance), held in Beirut on 4 and 5 December 2017.

(c) Prepare working papers on the interlinkages between the Agenda's economic, social, environmental, political/institutional and cultural dimensions and it 17 goals, and on the role of the various actors in its implementation, including Governments, civil society and the private sector

(d) Develop approaches that facilitate incorporating and adapting the Agenda and its Goals and targets nationally and regionally, including an approach to identify sets of interlinked goals drawn from national priorities, so as to ensure effectiveness and efficiency; and implement programmes to build national capacity and transfer knowledge to benefit from regional and international initiatives; prepare training

material and programmes and the necessary guides to develop national capacity and assist decision makers and development partners in the implementation process, including parliamentarians and civil society organizations

Action taken

5. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- Supporting the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan in transforming the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda into a work programme for implementation at the national level with the involvement of all stakeholders. The technical support provided by ESCWA focused on several provisions of the road map, such as developing mechanisms to align national priorities with the SDGs and ways to adapt the SDGs to the local context, and formulating communication, awareness-raising and advocacy strategies for the 2030 Agenda.

- Supporting the formation of the Intersessional Expert Group on Disability, which is an intergovernmental network of experts on disability policies in member States, aimed at strengthening South-South cooperation and information exchange on disability policy, and at supporting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and SDG target 8.5.

- Preparing a practical guide aimed at building the capacity of officials responsible for policy formulation and planning in member States to incorporate social justice concepts and principles in national development policies, plans and programmes in a way that ensures that they fulfil the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and other global commitments. The guide also discusses the relationship between the 2030 Agenda and selected public policy fields aimed at achieving social justice.

- Developing a preliminary economic model to simulate the SDGs, which includes a quantitative tool aimed at avoiding the adverse effects caused by the complexity of implementing the SDGs. The tool focuses on arbitrating between conflicting Goals by identifying the best interlinkages between targets.

- Holding three regional capacity-building workshops in 2017, focusing on strengthening the technical capacity of government officials who manage the provision of water and energy services in member States and who supervise issues related to sustainable energy, technology transfer and resource efficiency, so as to assist member States in incorporating energy and water-related SDGs in their national development plans.

- Organizing a round-table discussion, in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency, at the eighth session of the Agency's Assembly held in Abu Dhabi on 13 and 14 January 2018. Discussions focused on the regional dimension of the implementation of SDG 7.

- Holding a symposium on women and water security for peacebuilding in the Arab region (Beirut, 9-10 May 2018), in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which considered the links between water security and women's issues in the Arab region so as to strengthen national capacity to mainstream the nexus in national plans and strategies. It especially focused on building the capacity of government and non-government stakeholders in the region in formulating and implementing strategies, policies, frameworks and programmes to support SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 16.

- Preparing two studies on violence against women, which focus on target 5.2 on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

- Drafting a study on gender justice in the Arab region, which focuses on target 5.1 on ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. The study considers progress in the Arab region in tackling discrimination against women, and in developing accountability mechanisms to combat all forms of discrimination and institutional mechanisms that ensure redress for victims.

- Preparing a series of country profiles on the status of social protection in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen. The reports cover the status of social protection systems and programmes in those countries, including social security and health insurance programmes and social benefits. It also identifies gaps to assist decision makers in developing appropriate reform policies and strategies.

- The Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians on the 2030 Agenda, which focused on parliamentarians' key role in implementing the Agenda and on identifying ways to operationalize that role in the implementation, follow-up and review at the national and regional levels (Beirut, 8-9 November 2017). The seminar concluded with a series of key messages and a draft action plan.

- A participatory workshop for a working group on freedoms and human rights in Jordan on the SDGs and their implementation mechanisms at the national level, which aimed to raise awareness about the importance of leveraging the group's functions and broadening its mandate in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the necessity of ensuring consistency with other working groups and stakeholders (Amman, 13-15 March 2018). The workshop also enabled the working group to consider the Executive Development Plan of Jordan and its coherence with the SDGs, focusing on SDGs 5, 10 and 16.

- Workshops on SDG 5: a workshop on measuring women's representation in local government in the Arab region aimed at ensuring full women's participation and their enjoyment of equal rights in leadership positions at all decision-making levels in political, economic and public life, with a focus on SDG target 5.5, which was attended by officials from national statistical offices and ministries of internal affairs and of women's affairs in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and the State of Palestine (Beirut, 12-13 September 2017); a capacity-building workshop on gender equality, women's empowerment and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) for the national women's machinery of Mauritania (Nouakchott, 20-23 March 2017); a training workshop on responding to Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Syrian Arab Republic (Beirut, 27-28 March 2017); a workshop on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and its alignment with national development plans for the Jordanian National Commission for Women (Jordan, Dead Sea, 8-10 August 2017); and technical assistance to staff of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs in Lebanon on implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda (Beirut, 19-20 September 2017).

- National and regional workshops on tax base erosion and profit shifting, and on avoiding double taxation, in response to several requests for assistance on tax cooperation and within the framework of efforts aimed at improving economic planning and developing evidence-based policies to enhance sustainable development.

- Following up on the integrated approach to the SDGs by implementing a capacity-building project for countries on the water-energy nexus through two parallel and complementary: the first process was aimed at high-level officials in ministries of energy and of water to train them on mainstreaming the nexus in strategies, policies and plans at the national and regional levels by using a set of regional policy instruments; and the second process was aimed at service providers in the water and energy sectors, and was supported by technical interventions using an operational toolkit on resource efficiency, renewable energy and technology transfer.

(e) Continue to develop analysis tools that assist in determining interlinkages between goals, in accordance with country specificities and national plans, including network analysis, modelling and forecasting; and work with member States to build capacity in this field

Action taken

6. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- A preliminary model to simulate the SDGs, which proposes a quantitative tool for incorporating the SDGs in economic planning, and details the theoretical and technical aspects of the tool and its preconditions, restrictions, necessary equipment and problem-solving techniques.

- A study entitled "Sustainable Development Goals in an Arab Region Affected by Conflict: Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals with Household Survey Microdata", which shows the importance of national household surveys in monitoring progress and identifying policy priorities in conflict-affected countries. The study presents comprehensive analyses of Goals and indicators in priority areas requiring interventions at the subnational level, using data disaggregated by sex and location (urban-rural).

- A social policy brief entitled "Inequality in the SDGs: Fighting Multidimensional Inequality in the Arab Region", which considers the interlinkages between SDG 10 and social, demographic, economic, environmental and cultural issues and priorities in the Arab region. The policy brief presents the concept of inequality and the most common tools for its measurement, and highlights its adverse impact on the well-being of people and on countries, focusing on multidimensional inequality and its levels. It concludes with recommendations to decision makers and other stakeholders in that regard.

- An implementation framework for the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region, which was discussed at a consultative meeting held in Cairo from 18 to 20 September 2017. The framework includes the adopted approach, an assessment of environmental priorities in the Arab region, and an analysis of the extent to which the environmental dimension of the SDGs is mainstreamed in regional and national development frameworks.

- A publication entitled "Arab Region Progress in Sustainable Energy: Global Tracking Framework Regional Report", which adopts a regional perspective on a wide range of indicators and a detailed analysis of progress in the Arab region over the past two decades in developing sustainable energy, focusing on access to energy, fuel and clean and modern technologies, energy efficiency and dissemination of renewable energy. The report provides recommendations on policies covering institution building, financing, market restructuring and capacity-building.

- A publication entitled "Arab Horizon 2030: Prospects for Enhancing Food Security in the Arab Region", which includes an overview of food security in the Arab region. It considers the three dimensions of food security, namely availability, access and utilization, and analyses pressing issues in agriculture, international food trade, and food loss and waste. The report concludes with a set of findings and policy recommendations.

- The ESCWA Water Development Report No. 7: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region, which focuses on the links between SDG targets on climate change and disaster risk reduction to adopt an integrated approach to monitoring and implementing those targets in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It also proposes a methodology to link between the outputs of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) and historical disaster loss databases in Arab countries to identify risk areas and inform decision makers.

(f) Build national capacity to prepare reports on progress achieved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and disseminate existing approaches to drafting such reports

Action taken

7. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard, which was developed by the secretariat to assist member States in evaluating progress in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Analysis of the Scorecard's outputs shows that resources have flowed out of the region in recent years, rather than being used to support development within the region.

- A document on monitoring and performance evaluation under national development plans, which contains a method to record the performance of monitoring and evaluation processes for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The document presents performance recording as a basic exercise that enables Governments to measure progress, determine gaps between Goals and achievements, and undertake future planning.

- The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Rabat from 3 to 5 May 2017 and in Beirut, from 24 to 26 April 2018, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and other United Nations entities operating in the Arab region, which constituted a high-level platform to review and follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. ESCWA also reviewed the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews, translated it into Arabic and distributed it at the 2018 Arab Forum.

- Assistance to member States in adopting methodologies to measure progress in achieving water-related targets, under an integrated monitoring initiative for SDG 6 launched by UN Water.

(g) Assist Arab countries in developing appropriate institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms between entities in national statistical offices, so as to improve efficiency in monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets

Action taken

8. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- Evaluations of national statistical systems in Egypt and Jordan, aimed at formulating national strategies to develop statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda. The secretariat is organizing similar evaluations in Libya, the Sudan and Yemen, in cooperation with all bodies that produce and use official statistics.

- A workshop on sound institutional environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships for the production and utilization of SDG indicators, targeting officials at national statistical offices and policymakers (Tunis, 6-8 February 2018).

- A workshop on integrated environmental and economic accounting systems to support SDGs in the Arab region (Amman, 26-29 March 2018); a national workshop in Jordan on statistics and data: environmental statistics and the SDGs (Amman, 25 March 2018); a regional workshop on industrial statistics and a meeting on short-term economic indicators (Beirut, 11-15 December 2017); and a workshop on measuring women's representation in local government (Beirut, 12-13 September 2017).

- Guidelines to mainstream disability issues in SDG data collection, prepared in collaboration with national statistical offices and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

(h) Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the availability of good quality statistics for use in preparing indicators to measure progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration and coordination with the secretariat of the Arab Working Group on Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators and national statistical offices

Action taken

9. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- A comprehensive evaluation of data availability for monitoring purposes, prepared by ESCWA in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and the League of Arab States. Work is currently underway to update analysis data. Results were presented to the ESCWA Statistical Committee at its twelfth session, held in Beirut on 4 and 5 April 2017, in a document entitled "Role of official statistics in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region: data availability on the Sustainable Development Goals".

- An expert group meeting on tracking progress towards the implementation of energy-related SDGs in the Arab region, aimed at helping member States to monitor progress and the development and implementation of sustainable energy action plans at the national level, based on SDG indicators (Beirut, 24-25 January 2017).

- An expert group meeting on tracking progress towards sustainable energy – horizon 2030 in the Arab region. The meeting reviewed the findings of the Global Tracking Framework regional report and identified similarities and differences between Arab countries' approaches and their understanding of sustainable energy in the context of SDG 7 (Cairo, 14-15 May 2017).

(i) Identify a narrow set of indicators, based on national and regional priorities while taking into account the capacity of Arab countries to provide the necessary indicators in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and international standards, so as to periodically monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Action taken

10. Activities implemented by the secretariat included the following:

- A list of primary and secondary population indicators for Arab countries, prepared by the ESCWA Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and national statistical offices. The ESCWA Statistical Committee adopted those indicators at its twelfth session (Beirut, 4-5 April 2017).

- The thirteenth sectoral meeting of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and their specialized agencies on cooperation in the preservation and management of water resources in the Arab region, which highlighted the need for developing a framework to follow up on the implementation of SDG target 6.4, especially on substantially reducing the number of people suffering from water scarcity (Cairo, 23-25 October 2017).

B. Resolutions

323 (XXIX) Adoption of the strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019

Summary of the resolution

11. In this resolution, the Commission endorsed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, and noted comments by member States for inclusion in the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019. It also requested the secretariat to propagate the strategic framework as adopted by member States.

Action taken

12. Under item 18 of the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of ESCWA, the secretariat is proposing amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, focusing on global and regional priorities and needs that emerged since the adoption of the strategic framework and the programme of work. Amendments to the strategic framework involve the Unit on the 2030 Agenda and amendments to the programme of work are proposed to increase focus on youth empowerment in programmes and activities.

324 (XXIX) Adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Summary of the resolution

13. In this resolution, the Commission considered the recommendations set out in the reports of the subsidiary bodies on their sessions held in the period between the second meeting of the Executive Committee and the twenty-ninth ESCWA session, namely the report on the tenth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development; the report on the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport; and the report on the seventh session of the Committee on Women. It adopted the recommendations set out in the above-mentioned reports of the subsidiary bodies, and requested the Executive Secretary to continue following up on their implementation.

Action taken

14. The secretariat is continuing to implement recommendations made by subsidiary bodies, and is presenting progress reports to member States.

325 (XXIX) Adoption of the proposed amendments to the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017

Summary of the resolution

15. In this resolution, the Commission adopted the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, taking into account comments from member States at the session. It also requested the secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the programme of work and include therein the necessary activities to address any challenges that may emerge in the Arab region.

Action taken

16. By December 2017, ESCWA had implemented 99 per cent of its mandated outputs under its programme of work, including the additions made in 2017 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 of 23 December 2016 on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. All the expected achievements for the biennium 2016-2017 have been fulfilled.

326 (XXIX) Justice for the Palestinian people: fifty years of Israeli occupation

Summary of the resolution

17. In this resolution, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue supporting the Palestinian people and its institutions by taking action that included: increase activities on Palestine; provide support to the Government of Palestine in implementing the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022, and support Palestinian endeavours to implement the 2030 Agenda; coordinate and collaborate with relevant Palestinian entities to develop an ESCWA media and communications strategy aimed at increasing global awareness of the Palestinian cause and of development challenges in view of the occupation and Israeli violations of Palestinian rights and international law; continue to monitor and evaluate the repercussions of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people and future generations; strengthen efforts to calculate the cumulative impact of the Israeli occupation and its practices on the Palestinian people; and strive to establish a specialized unit on issues related to Palestine and its people, including monitoring Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's rights and of international law, documenting the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and its overall cost, supporting Palestinian institutions in their development efforts, and continue supporting the Palestinian people to realize all its rights guaranteed by United Nations resolutions and international treaties and charters.

Action taken

- ESCWA carried out a consultative process with over 60 experts from various backgrounds and specialities on the potential benefits, uses and approaches of calculating the cost of the occupation, so as to prepare a report on the cumulative cost of the occupation.

- ESCWA hosted a coordination meeting with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Government of the State of Palestine in Beirut on 24 March to determine cooperation and partnerships in calculating the cost of occupation.

- ESCWA organized a capacity-building workshop entitled "Partnerships for empowering a future State of Palestine: Sustainable Development Goal 17 and South-South and triangular cooperation", in collaboration with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat (Beirut, 27-28 April 2017). The workshop deepened participants' understanding of the merits and mechanisms of South-South and triangular cooperation; introduced several tools and methods to identify challenges and opportunities in forging partnerships; and highlighted the role of the United Nations, especially the regional commissions, in stimulating partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

- ESCWA held an expert group meeting on the impact of occupation on human development in the State of Palestine (Amman, 20-21 July 2017). Participants discussed the impact of the Israeli occupation on sustainable development in Palestine, and the mechanisms and possibilities for its measurement. They also considered the continuing challenges facing Palestinians under the Israeli occupation in issues related to housing, water availability, agriculture, industry, finance and trade services, freedom of movement, expression and political association, and the right to return and to self-determination. Participants discussed the need to devise solutions to tackle the repercussions of Israeli occupation, so as to achieve the SDGs. The meeting concluded with a set of recommendations on future research aimed at advancing human development and building human capital in Palestine.

- ESCWA prepared the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, which was presented to the Economic and Social Council in July 2017 and the General Assembly in September 2017. It also prepared the note for 2018, which will be presented to the Council and General Assembly at their annual sessions.

- ESCWA marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November 2017 with activities aimed at raising awareness of the Palestinian people's plight and rights and at mobilizing support for them.

- The secretariat established the Palestine Unit in the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division, with functions including implementing relevant resolutions emanating from ESCWA sessions and Executive Committee recommendations; harmonizing ESCWA activities to support the Palestinian people and their institutions in achieving sustainable development in spite of the occupation and mitigating its impact; documenting and analysing the economic and social repercussions of Israeli practices and policies and assessing their long-term and cumulative impact; and preparing periodic reports and studies on Israeli violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and of international law.

327 (XXIX) Working mechanisms of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

Summary of the resolution

18. In this resolution, the Commission affirmed the important role of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development as a regional platform where stakeholders can address sustainable development issues from an integrated perspective, consider formulations, frameworks and follow-up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda, and contribute to building a unified position on the opportunities and challenges of achieving sustainable development in the Arab region. The Commission also invited presentations of national and regional experiences in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including voluntary national reports on progress in this regard; and endorsed the annexed terms of reference, which organize the working mechanisms of the Forum in a manner that guarantees its effectiveness and success in strengthening regional cooperation and coordination to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Action taken

19. The outcomes of the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development will be presented to member States under item 8 of the provisional agenda of the thirtieth ESCWA session.

328 (XXIX) Technical cooperation to meet the needs and priorities of member States

Summary of the resolution

20. In this resolution, the Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in linking its technical cooperation work with its other core functions of research and analysis and consensus-building to support policy formulation; urged it to continue strengthening strategic partnerships between United Nations technical cooperation programmes and member States, and to strengthen regional cooperation and integration and South-South cooperation to support the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It also requested the secretariat to adopt a programmatic approach based on specific plans for long-term technical cooperation between ESCWA and member States.

Action taken

21. Developments related to this resolution will be presented under item 16 of the provisional agenda of the thirtieth ESCWA session.

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Thirtieth session
Beirut, 25-28 June 2018

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the Executive Committee

1. Under item 13, the Commission will be presented with two reports on the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held in the period between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth ESCWA sessions. In addition to recommendations and resolutions, each report contains an overview of the topics discussed, information on the organization of the meeting, documentation and the list of participants. Those reports are:

- Report of the third meeting of the Executive Committee, Rabat, 6-7 May 2017 (E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/8/Report);

- Report of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, Beirut, 13-14 December 2017 (E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/9/Report).

2. The Commission is requested to review those reports and endorse the recommendations and resolutions contained therein.

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Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies

1. Under item 14, the Commission will have before it the reports of the subsidiary bodies on their sessions which were held between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Commission, and which were not presented to the Executive Committee. In addition to the recommendations, the reports cover the issues discussed, information on the organization of those sessions, lists of participants and documents presented therein. Those reports are:

- Report of the eighth session of the Committee on Women, held in Beirut on 4 and 5 October 2017 (E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/7/Report);

- Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development, held in Khartoum on 17 and 18 October 2017 (E/ESCWA/SDD/2017/IG.1/6/Report);

- Report of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics, held in Beirut on 20 and 21 December 2017 (E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/9/Report);

- Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (liberalization of foreign trade), held in Beirut on 27 and 28 November 2017 (E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.3/11/Report);

- Report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (focus on finance), held in Beirut on 4 and 5 December 2017 (E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/9/Report).

2. The Commission is requested to review those reports and endorse the recommendations contained therein.

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Programme performance in the biennium 2016-2017

Summary

In line with the results-based management approach promoted throughout the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continues to consider the assessment of results attained through the implementation of its programme of work a key priority.

The present document sets out some of the achievements and lessons learned through the implementation by ESCWA of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017. It also highlights a few results attained through each of the seven substantive subprogrammes.

The Commission is invited to review this document and provide comments thereon.

18-00196

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction		1-4	3
Chapter			
I.	**HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMME RESULTS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**	5-11	3
II.	**CHALLENGES**	12-13	4
III.	**EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT**	14-21	4
IV.	**SUBPROGRAMMES**	22-56	6
	A. Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	22-29	6
	B. Subprogramme 2. Social development	30-33	7
	C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration	34-39	9
	D. Subprogramme 4. Technology for development and regional integration	40-43	10
	E. Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	44-48	11
	F. Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women	49-52	12
	G. Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development	53-56	13
Annex.	ESCWA intergovernmental meetings held in 2016-2017		15

Introduction

1. In line with the results-based management approach promoted throughout the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continues to consider the assessment of results attained through the implementation of its programme of work a key priority. The present document sets out some of the achievements and lessons learned through the implementation by ESCWA of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017. It includes an assessment of the performance of the executive direction and management and highlights a few results attained through each of the seven substantive subprogrammes.

2. The present document is intended to serve as an instrument for ESCWA member States to assess the results and relevance of the work of the Commission, as well as the implementation of individual subprogrammes. A self-assessment was first carried out by the directors and section chiefs responsible for each subprogramme. Results were then synthesized by the ESCWA secretariat. Performance has been verified using reports of intergovernmental sessions and expert group meetings, country papers and mission reports submitted to ESCWA; responses by participants to evaluation questionnaires for meetings, training workshops and seminars; feedback from stakeholders; media coverage of certain events; the number of hits on and downloads from the ESCWA website; and requests by member States for technical assistance and advisory services.

3. The self-assessment methodology adopted follows global methodologies for monitoring and evaluating programme performance. It comprises: (a) the establishment of baselines for indicators of achievement at the start of the biennium; (b) regular data collection to measure progress against those baselines; (c) regular monitoring of progress by management; (d) identification, from monitoring and evaluation, of lessons learned and areas requiring improvement for further implementation steps and future programme planning; (e) formulation of the main results for each subprogramme; and (f) identification of challenges, obstacles and unmet goals.

4. The Commission is invited to review the present document and provide comments and guidance on the overall performance of the ESCWA secretariat and of individual subprogrammes.

I. HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMME RESULTS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

5. In the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA significantly expanded its work programme and reach, namely through the addition of 25 outputs under its regular budget and the establishment of a dedicated unit on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These new outputs were tied to an additional $1.2 million dollars received in 2017 for the implementation of the Strategy and Plan of Action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Commission in resolution 322 (EC.2) of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. Additionally, ESCWA expanded its technical cooperation services through an increase in operational budget of close to $500,000 for 2017. These additional resources and outputs will be recurrent in the ESCWA programme of work until 2030.

6. The work of ESCWA contributed to stronger engagement by member States in the implementation of and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda. In addition to direct technical support at country level, capacity development and knowledge-building efforts, the 2016 and 2017 sessions of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development provided Governments and key stakeholders with a regional platform for peer learning and dialogue on development priorities. Through its strategic partnership with the League of Arab States, ESCWA also contributed to Arab States' growing interest in reporting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as reflected in the significant increase in voluntary national reviews.

7. Throughout the biennium, a project to strengthen government capacity to respond to the needs of youth targeted Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia. ESCWA also adapted the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to national institutions, which resulted in the first accountability framework for gender equality for the Arab region, now being piloted in Jordan. In addition,

a high-level panel was held in December 2017 to address illicit financial flows and the adverse implications of their cross-border movement.

8. In 2016-2017, ESCWA continued to build the capacity of Arab climate change negotiators. As a result, 13 member States have developed targets or plans related to climate change issues and the intended nationally determined contributions.

9. In partnership with the League of Arab States, ESCWA has engaged in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs, including the extraordinary meeting in preparation for the September 2016 Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, which resulted in an outcome document stating the common position of Arab States on the subject. The document then fed into the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016).

10. With the support of ESCWA, all member States have started producing SDG indicators according to the Global Indicator Framework agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017, and to their national strategies for sustainable development. All 18 ESCWA member States are also now able to provide at least basic estimates for national accounts, and 17 have requested the assistance of ESCWA in preparing for the 2020 round of censuses.

11. In 2017, the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme issued the Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework, which was produced with the input of over 1,600 Syrian stakeholders in order to prioritize stabilization initiatives in the country. The Framework is available from https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/spaf_synopsis.pdf.

II. CHALLENGES

12. The main challenge for ESCWA continues to be the political and security instability in the region. Although it has become increasingly difficult to engage in medium- and long-term development initiatives in countries suffering from difficult security conditions, ESCWA has launched projects to create platforms for development dialogue in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Travel restrictions to Lebanon stemming from several member States have imposed limitations on hosting meetings at ESCWA headquarters, which has increased the unpredictability of operation costs.

13. Despite these obstacles, ESCWA has implemented its programme of work in a flexible manner, adapting to ever-changing conditions. The secretariat aims to continue delivering high-quality results and planning for the contingencies created by the region's political situation.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

14. In the 2016-2017 biennium, executive direction and management entities have implemented 29 out of 30 planned outputs (96 per cent). The main results achieved under the expected accomplishments that were set in the programme of work for 2016-2017 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Effectively managing the programme of work of ESCWA

Results achieved

15. ESCWA as a whole achieved an implementation rate of 99 per cent of 539 quantifiable outputs for the biennium 2016-2017, compared with 99 per cent of 465 outputs in the previous biennium. It has continued to work on increasing effectiveness in managing its programme of work. The secretariat has, for example, enhanced its use of the deployed administrative systems, such as Umoja, and its implementation of global initiatives, such as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy for the United Nations, to modernize service delivery.

16. Five Development Account projects underwent evaluation in the 2016-2017biennium. The UN-SWAP on gender equality and the empowerment of women was taken into account throughout all evaluation processes. Finally, member States have expressed that the twenty-ninth ministerial session of ESCWA had successfully captured their views on its work.

Expected accomplishment 2: Increasing timeliness of the submission of documentation

Results achieved

17. ESCWA has continued to exert efforts to finalize parliamentary documentation well ahead of meetings. For instance, documentation for the twenty-ninth ministerial session was distributed, on average, four weeks prior to the session date, and timely issuance of documents received a rating of 4.29 on a 5-point scale in the evaluation of member State representatives. This was generally the case for all parliamentary documentation; it was supported by increased reliance on electronic means of delivery and the revamping of the ESCWA website.

Expected accomplishment 3: Identifying and addressing emerging issues that require attention by member States

Results achieved

18. ESCWA has continued to align its work with emerging regional and global priorities and to respond to recommendations raised by member States during intergovernmental meetings. Its twenty-ninth ministerial session, held in Qatar in December 2016, culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provided a road map for Arab States to implement the Agenda while making room for its adaptation to specific circumstances and emerging issues at the regional and national levels. During 2016, ESCWA was given mandates to assist its member States in integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; provide technical support for leveraging means of implementation to achieve the SDGs; and facilitate follow-up and review. In implementing those mandates, it repeatedly brought emerging development issues to the attention of member States.

Expected accomplishment 4: Enhancing policy coherence in the management of the economic and social activities of the United Nations

Results achieved

19. ESCWA continues to be convener of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for the Arab States, an important platform aimed at increasing coherence among United Nations entities working in the region. The twenty-second RCM meeting was held in Doha in December 2016; it focused on identifying joint initiatives and collaboration possibilities between the different participating agencies to better support member States in the implementation of the SDGs. The twenty-third RCM meeting was held in Beirut, in November 2017; it focused on devising an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to policymaking in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and reviewed ways of engagement with the United Nations Secretary-General's reform agenda. In the biennium, the RCM Working Group on the 2030 Agenda held one meeting, the SDG Data Working Group held one meeting and the International Migration Working Group held one meeting; they mapped activities in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016-2017, ESCWA increased the number of ongoing coordination initiatives with other RCM members to six.

Expected accomplishment 5: Increasing public awareness of the work of ESCWA in pursuing regional priorities and emerging issues

Results achieved

20. ESCWA has pursued efforts to widen its outreach through a variety of means. The revamping of its website has rendered information more accessible to end users and the number of downloads has been steadily increasing over the years. ESCWA has also continued to communicate with the public at large through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, reaching hundreds of thousands of users who interacted with its posts in 2016 and 2017. The secretariat has also ensured media coverage for a considerable number of activities and meetings and through the organization of press conferences and other media events, increasing the number of written and audiovisual instances of media coverage of ESCWA activities to 1,450 in the biennium.

Expected accomplishment 6: Building new partnerships and strengthening existing ones (with the purpose of broadening the outreach and impact of ESCWA activities)

Results achieved

21. ESCWA has continued to build partnerships with a broad range of governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners at the global and regional levels, through both formal and informal agreements. There were some 23 memorandums and letters of understanding, and contribution and financial agreements signed in the biennium, 7 of which were with new partners. These partnerships allow ESCWA to expand the reach of its normative and technical cooperation activities.

IV. SUBPROGRAMMES

A. SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

22. Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Development Policies Division. The objective is to achieve the integrated management of natural resources leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream the SDGs into regional and national policy processes. In the 2016-2016 biennium, 95 out of 95 planned outputs were implemented (100 per cent), and the main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 1 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Member States mainstream appropriate sustainable development goals into national multisectoral strategies and action plans for the integrated management of natural resources, including tools for measuring, monitoring and reporting

Results achieved

23. With the support of ESCWA, in the 2016-2017 biennium, multinational mechanisms were set: the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) set out to collect data on regional water indicators through national monitoring teams and established a task force led by ESCWA; and the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity endorsed the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Energy.

24. ESCWA also contributed to the development of methodologies in the 2016-2017 biennium, namely the Guiding Framework for the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region and the follow-up to the Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production, both adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. A high-level meeting was held in Amman in November 2016, on the water-related SDGs, aimed at increasing collaboration among water and statistical agencies to harmonize indicators and methodologies.

25. The work of ESCWA in the biennium has resulted in the development of several tools, including an online platform for knowledge-sharing and compilation of best practices in the field of renewable energy, to be integrated to the Sustainable Energy Marketplace of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Supported by ESCWA, in 2016, Jordan issued its Climate Change Policy for a Resilient Water Sector, within its National Water Strategy 2016-2025.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States adopt platforms and resolutions on regional cooperation on shared water resources, energy networks and environmental sustainability to improve food, water and energy security

Results achieved

26. In the 2016-2017 biennium and with the support of ESCWA, member States adopted 9 resolutions, developed 3 platforms and implemented 5 different tools in the fields of food, water and energy. Meetings of the ESCWA committees on energy and on water resources were held jointly, in order to identify common challenges and responses and address the water-energy nexus.

27. The League of Arab States has endorsed the ESCWA project on promoting food and water security through cooperation and capacity development in the Arab region, as well as the ESCWA guidelines on shared water resources, which will increase regional cooperation on those issues. A regional network of national focal points was established by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment with the support of ESCWA, and a regional implementation plan for SDGs and targets related to the environment is underway. The Arab Permanent Committee on Meteorology has endorsed the Arab Climate Outlook Forum, coordinated by ESCWA. Finally, The AMWC requested the support of ESCWA to build the capacity of negotiators on shared water resources and establish a technical advisory working group on water-agriculture coordination.

Expected accomplishment 3: Member States develop coordinated policies, strategies and frameworks for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience and respond to the impact of natural and human-induced disasters

Results achieved

28. ESCWA and the League of Arab States, in partnership with 11 other institutions, are still implementing the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR).

29. The work of ESCWA on the national and regional levels has led to the adoption of five resolutions and recommendations on climate change in 2016-2017. The AMWC adopted a resolution endorsing the RICCAR Arab Climate Change Assessment Report, one on the establishment of a regional knowledge hub on climate and water, and one mandating ESCWA to continue to train Arab climate negotiators. The Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity has also adopted a recommendation that solicits presentation by ESCWA of the outcomes of the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and another on renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in the Arab region.

B. SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

30. Substantive responsibility this subprogramme is vested in the Social Development Division. The objective is to enhance the capacity of member States to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development. In the 2016-2017 biennium, 78 out of 80 planned outputs were implemented (96 per cent), with one publication delayed and implemented by 1 April 2018. The main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 2 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Member States develop rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social cohesion, social inclusion, social protection and the provision of adequate social services for all

Results achieved

31. In the 2016-2017 biennium, the work of ESCWA continued to lead to the adoption of measures that promote social inclusion. Jordan and the Sudan passed more inclusive disability laws; Morocco and the Sudan reviewed their disability assessment processes; and Morocco took steps to enhance digital accessibility for persons with disabilities. Jordan also adopted policy guidelines on education curricula reform to better address youth unemployment. With the support of ESCWA and other stakeholders, member States adopted the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Combined, these actions increased the number of measures favouring the social integration of vulnerable groups from 24 in 2015 to 34 in 2017. On social protection, ESCWA provided additional support that raised the number of measures formulated or enhanced to improve social protection or expand the provision of social services from 6 in 2015 to 8 in 2017.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States engage in a regional consensus-building process on international migration towards the formulation and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration and foster intraregional coordination and cooperation

Results achieved

32. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA fostered the engagement of member States in two regional consensus-building processes on international migration. The position of Arab States on large movements of migrants and refugees was consolidated in an outcome document, which informed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The recommendations on regional migration priorities and challenges also informed negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This increased the number of instances in which ESCWA promoted dialogue on international migration between Governments of member States from 2 in 2015 to 4 by December 2017. The efforts of ESCWA contributed to increase the number of policies that reflect awareness of the opportunities and challenges of international migration from 3 in 2015 to 6 by December 2017.

Expected accomplishment 3: Member States adopt a participatory approach to social policy formulation and implementation through consensus building, the empowerment of civil society and the engagement of civic groups and other stakeholders in advocating the values and tools necessary to achieving social justice

Results achieved

33. ESCWA member States are increasingly recognizing the importance of participatory approaches, consensus building and civic engagement for the formulation of just and sustainable policies. This was evidenced in the extensive engagement of civil society actors with government officials and other stakeholders in policy dialogues facilitated by ESCWA, which culminated in key messages and recommendations. The number of instances in which different stakeholders participated in such dialogues rose from 14 in 2015 to 20 by 2017. This progress was further demonstrated in the increased number of government entities and non-governmental organizations using capacity-building tools developed by ESCWA on participatory development, democratic governance, participatory social protection policies, social justice and equality, from 20 entities and organizations in 2015 to 27 in 2017.

C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

34. Substantive responsibility for subprogramme 3 is vested in the Economic Development and Integration Division. The objective is to achieve a decent standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained, inclusive and integrated regional economic development. In the 2016-2017 biennium, 113 out of 113 planned outputs were implemented (100 per cent), and the main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 3 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Member States reform economic institutions and develop and implement policies based on principles of good governance in order to enable economic planning and policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development

Results achieved

35. In the 2016-2017 biennium, the support of ESCWA contributed to several policy changes in economic governance in member States. Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates improved their rankings in the Ease of Doing Business Index. ESCWA developed economic modelling tools, including social accounting matrices and computable general equilibrium models, to facilitate planning and monitor performance in some 20 sectors of the economies of several Arab countries.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States design and implement pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies towards eradicating poverty and reducing income inequality

Results achieved

36. With the aim of providing practical suggestions to step up Arab efforts towards eradicating poverty in all its dimensions and implementing the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, has developed a methodology to measure multidimensional poverty and issued the first Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report. The report provided recommendations towards adopting more pro-poor policies and accelerating implementation at the national and regional levels; it was endorsed by the League of Arab States through a resolution of Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs in September 2017. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA also organized trainings on measuring poverty and designing evidence-based and pro-poor policies in cooperation with the League of Arab States, and provided technical assistance to Iraq, Jordan and Mauritania on poverty measurement.

Expected accomplishment 3: National policymaking institutions develop evidence-based tools to create decent and competitive jobs for men and women

Results achieved

37. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA organized a capacity-building event with the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the ILO Turin Center, in which 23 participants from Arab countries received training on pro-employment policies. ESCWA also provided support to Bahrain, Jordan and the Sudan on economic diversification, competitiveness and fairness, strategic economic scenarios for 2030 and strategic planning processes, respectively.

Expected accomplishment 4: Member States and regional institutions develop policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence

Results achieved

38. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA offered technical support to member States on the negotiation and conclusion of tax treaties, and on the development of policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence. As a result, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have adopted converging instruments for value added tax. ESCWA also provided support to Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia in the elaboration of their accession proposals to the Arab Customs Union.

Expected accomplishment 5: Member States and regional institutions develop plans and policies for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation

Results achieved

39. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA provided technical support to member States through expert group meetings on transport and trade facilitation, intergovernmental sessions on transport and trade, and close follow-up on accession to/implementation of transport treaties and on the establishment of the Arab Custom Union. As a result, nine countries, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, have registered an improvement in the Logistic Performance Indicator (LPI). Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have also adopted or developed plans or programmes containing new measures in line with the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization. ESCWA also helped the Government of Kuwait in its accession to the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation between Arab Countries.

D. SUBPROGRAMME 4. TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

40. Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Technology for Development Division. The objective is to promote inclusive and sustainable development in member States by building an information society and knowledge economy that leverage technology and innovation in accordance with the regional development requirements and the internationally agreed development objectives. In the 2016-2017 biennium, 36 out of 36 planned outputs were implemented (100 per cent), and the main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 4 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Member States develop or update strategies and policies that leverage human resources, innovation and modern technology towards a knowledge-based economy and information society as the new paradigm for employment and sustainable economic growth

Results achieved

41. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA assisted member States in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies to transform their economies into competitive, knowledge-based ones. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt adopted a strategy for science, technology and innovation (STI) for the period 2015-2030, which falls under the country's Vision 2030. In Jordan, the Higher Council for Science and Technology also adopted an STI policy for 2013-2017. The Moroccan Innovation Center is implementing an initiative dedicated to innovation in the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research (Horizon 2025). In its tenth National Development Plan, the Ministry of Planning in Saudi Arabia included a specific component for STI aimed at localizing and developing advanced strategic technologies. The Government of the United Arab Emirates developed the National Innovation Strategy to drive innovation in the social and economic life of citizens. The Research Council in Oman adopted the National Innovation Strategy in 2017. In addition, ESCWA supported the Africa Technology City in the Sudan and the University of Science, Technology and Medicine in Mauritania in reviewing the countries' respective innovation systems.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States coordinate the implementation of harmonized policies and legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technology, to foster the development of regional platforms and services

Results achieved

42. ESCWA has assisted Egypt, Oman, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the Sudan in setting up national technology transfer offices. Its work has also contributed to the launch of initiatives on Internet governance in Lebanon and Tunisia. In addition, ESCWA has led the implementation of the Arab Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2020 initiative, establishing a new charter for the Arab IGF process and a second Arab road map for Internet governance. Finally, the first session of the intergovernmental Committee on Technology for Development, a subsidiary body of ESCWA, was held in February 2017, under the theme of leveraging technology to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Expected accomplishment 3: Public institutions deploy ICT policies and e-government services based on good governance principles, with focus on open government in general and e-participation in particular

Results achieved

43. ESCWA has developed the Government Electronic and Mobile Services (GEMS) Maturity Index, which was adopted by the Arab IGF, to assess the usage of e-government services in the region. It has also provided support for the launch of an Arab e-government council to foster knowledge-sharing among Arab countries on related themes. In addition, ESCWA has supported 6 initiatives on open government, including the e-government portal developed by the National Information Center of the Sudan; "Smart Qatar" implemented by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Qatar to provide new e-government services; "Dawlaty" developed by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform of Lebanon to provide new e-government services; and Jordan's third national action plan 2016-2018 under the Open Government Partnership, launched by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

E. SUBPROGRAMME 5. STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

44. Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Statistics Division. The objective is to strengthen regional and national statistical systems for the production and dissemination of quality statistics for evidence-based policies aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable development, regional integration and improved governance. In the 2016-2017 biennium, 66 out of 66 planned outputs were implemented (100 per cent), and the main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 5 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: National statistical offices implement methodologies in line with good practices and international standards and recommendations

Results achieved

45. All ESCWA member States have adopted the SDG indicators framework, and are at least at the basic stage of implementation of the System of National Accounts. There were 39 requests for assistance in that regard during the 2016-2017 biennium.

Expected accomplishment 2: Stakeholders make greater use of quality statistics and methodological studies produced and disseminated by ESCWA

Results achieved

46. The number of queries registered by the ESCWA statistics database and the number of downloads of e-publications have reached 520 in a selected quarter of the biennium. At least 275 citations and references to the work of ESCWA were registered within the fourth quarter of the biennium.

Expected accomplishment 3: Regional and national statistical institutions adopt agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics

47. During the third and fourth quarters of 2016, the Statistics Division facilitated the establishment of two technical advisory groups, one on economic statistics and the other on demographic and social statistics. Using the budget allotments originally planned for ad-hoc expert groups, they provide a more systematic follow up on the needs of national statistical systems in the Arab region. Four strategies were adopted for the harmonization of statistics in the region between ESCWA and the national statistical offices of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and the State of Palestine.

48. The guidelines that were produced by ESCWA and adopted during the biennium were the training curriculum and toolkit on gender statistics; a core set of sociodemographic indicators; guidelines on national strategies for the development of statistics; guidelines on Islamic banking; and the training toolkit on environment statistics.

F. SUBPROGRAMME 6. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

49. Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the ESCWA Centre for Women. The objective is to reduce gender imbalances and contribute to strengthening the respect of the rights of women in member States in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences, and encourage the exchange of lessons learned in this field to build a society that guarantees justice without discrimination. In the biennium, 65 out of 65 planned outputs were implemented (100 per cent), and the main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 6 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Member States design and implement inclusive gender-sensitive policies, strategies and plans towards the elimination of gender discrimination and violations of the economic and social rights of women

Results achieved

50. In the 2016-2017 biennium, the work of ESCWA facilitated the design of gender-sensitive strategies, including the United Arab Emirates' strategy on women, peace and security; the second cycle of Lebanon's national strategy for women (2011-2021); and the Syrian Arab Republic's strategy on women, peace and security. As for action plans, ESCWA provided support to Lebanon in finalizing the November 2016 review of its national action plan on women's advancement (2016-2018); to the State of Palestine in finalizing its draft national action plan on women, peace and security; and to the Sudan in validating the final draft of the national action plan on women, peace and security.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States collaborate on the development and implementation of regional frameworks that are in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences on the rights of women and gender equality

Results achieved

51. ESCWA has engaged with member States in a variety of initiatives to develop national strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Three regional workshops were held for members of the new Sub-Committee on Gender and the SDGs, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the League of Arab States, with the aim of assessing the responsiveness of national women's machineries to the 2030 Agenda. ESCWA also conducted a subregional workshop to deepen knowledge on SDG 5. An electronic platform was launched to serve as a knowledge hub on gender equality, facilitate peer learning and disseminate information among all stakeholders.

Expected accomplishment 3: Member States establish institutional mechanisms that ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making processes

Results achieved

52. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA engaged with government stakeholders, national women's machineries and civil society organizations to build their capacity in advocating for women's political participation, particularly in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Four awareness-raising campaigns were also organized for International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence during the biennium.

G. Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

53. Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division. The objective is to mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region. In the 2016-2017 biennium, 52 out of 54 planned outputs (96 per cent) were implemented, with two publications delayed and implemented by 1 April 2018. The main results achieved under the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 7 are briefly described below.

Expected accomplishment 1: Public institutions develop nationally led and owned governance strategies and policies to enhance their performance and service provision abilities, including monitoring and analysis, particularly in the countries affected by crises and the least developed ones

Results achieved

54. In the 2016-2017 biennium, ESCWA continued its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme in supporting public sector reform in Iraq. It organized a capacity development workshop in January 2016 on good governance and the SDGs, and a workshop on internally displaced persons and refugees in Iraq in February 2017. These events led to further joint work between the Government of Iraq and ESCWA on the displaced persons' strategy and its integration in a long-term recovery plan for the country. The work of ESCWA on enhancing competencies of civil servants and the workshop it organized in Amman in December 2017 on the subject have fostered the creation of a network of ministries, councils, public administration reform bureaus and human resources development stakeholders, which requested ESCWA to draft a core competencies framework for civil service in the Arab region and develop related trainings. The framework and training modules would then be presented to the network for validation and pursuit at the national level. ESCWA has also received technical assistance requests for further workshops on security sector reform; institutional development and State-building; national dialogue and reconciliation; economic options for post-conflict reconstruction, and transitional justice and gender equality.

Expected accomplishment 2: Member States respond to development challenges associated with transformations in the region through the formulation of nationally led and owned suitable development strategies and policies

Results achieved

55. ESCWA has provided support to the Bassel Fuleihan Institute of Finance for the organization of the Seventh Annual Conference of the Governance Institutes Forum for Training (GIFT)-Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Network of Civil Service Training Schools and Institutes on Governance, Fragility and Sustainable Development, and the Annual General Assembly of the GIFT-MENA Network, which were held in Paris in October 2016. More than 150 participants from 16 Arab countries, 7 European institutions and 11 regional and international organizations debated on development priorities, governance and public action in the region, and on means to reinforce the central role of civil service training. ESCWA has also finalized a three-year programme dedicated to institutional strengthening for recovery in Yemen, which received the endorsement of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of the country.

Expected accomplishment 3: Public institutions develop or implement strategies for the mitigation of the negative direct impacts of crises and Israeli occupation, as well as its indirect repercussions on development in the region

Results achieved

56. ESCWA partnered with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to organize a capacity-building workshop on SDGs for Palestinian officials, titled "Partnerships for empowering a future State of Palestine: Sustainable Development Goal 17 and South-South and Triangular Cooperation", in April 2017. An expert group meeting on the impact of occupation on human development in Palestine was also held in July 2017. Participants identified a list of research topics that can contribute to the assessment of the cumulative and multi-layered impact of the Israeli occupation and assist in the formulation of mitigation strategies and policies, in Palestine and the rest of the Arab region. As part of its efforts to assess such impact, ESCWA continued its consultative process with experts, Palestinian officials and other United Nations agencies. In addition, ESCWA contributed to increasing knowledge and awareness about Israeli practices towards the Palestinian people and their impact through several reports and publications that were widely disseminated.

Annex

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS HELD IN 2016-2017

Subprogramme	Title of meeting	Venue	Date
1	Eleventh session of the Committee on Energy	Cairo	14-16 May 2017
	Twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources	Amman	22-24 March 2017
2	Eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development	Khartoum	17-18 October 2017
3	Seventeenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics	Cairo	23-24 January 2017
	Eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics	Beirut	20-21 December 2017
	Eleventh session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (Liberalization of foreign trade)	Beirut	27-28 November 2017
	Twelfth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (Focus on Finance)	Beirut	4-5 December 2017
4	First session of the Committee on Technology for Development	Dubai	11-12 February 2017
	Fifth ESCWA Technology Centre Technical Committee meeting	Beirut	23-24 May 2017
5	Twelfth session of the Statistical Committee	Beirut	4-5 April 2017
	Fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee	Beirut	20 January 2017
6	Seventh session of the Committee on Women	Muscat	20-21 January 2016
	Eighth session of the Committee on Women	Beirut	4-5 October 2017
	First meeting of the Subcommittee on Gender and the SDGs	Beirut	18 August 2017
Office of the Executive Secretary	Twenty-ninth session	Doha	13-15 December 2016
	Third meeting of the Executive Committee	Rabat	6-7 May 2017
	Fourth meeting of the Executive Committee	Beirut	13-14 December 2017

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Item 16 of the provisional agenda

Technical cooperation and regional advisory services

Summary

The present report provides an overview of technical cooperation activities carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and funded by the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources over the biennium 2016-2017. Activities funded by the regular budget are set out in document E/ESCWA/30/13 entitled "Programme performance in the biennium 2016-2017".

The present report provides background on RPTC, which offers technical capacity-building and advisory services to member States. It also presents the key accomplishments of ESCWA in technical cooperation, and an overview of activities undertaken over the biennium 2016-2017 under its seven subprogrammes. Moreover, the present report provides a breakdown analysis of advisory services and capacity-building activities, and of activities undertaken under the Development Account and extrabudgetary projects financed by donors. It concludes with a brief discussion on the Technical Cooperation Network and the ESCWA vision for future technical cooperation.

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction		1-8	3
Chapter			
I.	**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**	9-44	4
	A. Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	12-16	4
	B. Subprogramme 2. Social development	17-21	5
	C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration	22-25	7
	D. Subprogramme 4. Technology for development and regional integration	26-29	7
	E. Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidenced-based policymaking	30-34	8
	F. Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women	35-40	10
	G. Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development	41-44	11
II.	**ADVISORY SERVICES OVER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**	45	12
III.	**CAPACITY-BUILDING**	46	14
IV.	**STUDY TOURS**	47	15
V.	**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT**	48-54	17
VI.	**EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES**	55-57	19
VII.	**STRENGTHING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK**	58-59	19
VIII.	**RESULTS-BASED TECHNICAL COOPERATION**	60	19
IX.	**CHALLENGES**	61-63	20
X.	**WAY FORWARD**	64-66	20

ANNEXES

I.	Capacity-building workshops under each subprogramme, 2016-2017	21
II.	Capacity-building workshops by country under each subprogramme, 2016-2017	26

Introduction

1. The Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC) is an important instrument for implementing the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). RPTC was established to provide development support to member States as part of the Commission's larger mission to revitalize economies and strengthen cooperation, and to enhance socioeconomic development in the Arab region.

2. By implementing the findings of cutting-edge global research and analytical work on regional development challenges, RPTC provides stakeholders with services aimed at enhancing their technical, institutional and organizational capacity. Through its various modalities of work, RPTC provides holistic support to policymakers at all stages of the policy cycle, including identifying policy gaps, setting agendas, formulating and implementing policies, and evaluating results and assessing impact.

3. ESCWA technical cooperation projects and services respond to the needs of its member States, and are therefore predominately demand-driven and tailor-made to meet beneficiaries' requirements. In addition to flexibility in responding to emerging and urgent needs facing decision makers in the region, the RPTC strategy has increasingly shifted towards results-oriented work anchored in national frameworks. Through the preparation and adoption of national technical cooperation frameworks, ESCWA seeks to introduce integrated planning into technical support provided to member States to improve effectiveness, increase impact and enhance transparency. As part of this effort, RPTC resources were realigned programmatically with the ESCWA strategic framework, which, over the biennium 2016-2017, focused on three main pillars: inclusive development, regional integration, and good governance and resilience.

4. Technical cooperation at ESCWA is part of a broader international effort aimed at realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through its seven specialized subprogrammes that address various dimensions of development in the Arab region, including social, economic and technological issues, natural resources and the impact of occupation and governance, the work of ESCWA intersects with most of the 17 SDGs. In addition, ESCWA provides specialized support to advance the implementation of the SDGs in the region, including providing capacity support to enhance institutional readiness and foster coordination and coherence, raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda and its implications, and developing partnerships with non-governmental stakeholders. Moreover, ESCWA responds to member States' needs by developing mechanisms and tools for follow-up and review, including support in preparing voluntary national reviews.

5. ESCWA employs the following three categories of technical cooperation services: advisory services to support countries in policy-related issues; capacity-building workshops, familiarization seminars, study tours and fellowships; and pilot field projects in areas where ESCWA has a mandate and expertise, intended to develop into larger donor-funded extrabudgetary projects.

6. Depending on the area and goals of a technical cooperation service, activity implementation is carried out by regular staff, regional advisors and consultants or by teams comprising all three. As part of RPTC, ESCWA teams operate in the field to identify practical solutions and support government-led policies and initiatives. ESCWA exerts every effort to ensure a coherent, interdisciplinary and results-oriented approach in its service implementation.

7. When planning and delivering its technical cooperation services, ESCWA collaborates with key international organizations and institutions in the region, including United Nations country teams, to maintain coherence, ensure the effectiveness of the assistance provided and avoid duplication of efforts. ESCWA has also developed strategic partnerships with international organizations and institutions in the region and globally to mobilize resources, and to ensure greater impact and optimization of financial and non-financial resources.

8. Technical cooperation activities are funded by three interlinked modalities: RPTC, the United Nations Development Account and extra-budgetary resources. As illustrated in the following sections of the present report, ESCWA aims to integrate all three modalities into its normative research work, which is funded through the regular budget.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

9. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA carried out 182 advisory missions and capacity-building activities under the umbrella of the RPTC budget and 12 Development Account projects. In addition, ESCWA implemented seven technical cooperation projects funded through extrabudgetary resources. All activities were delivered as part of the programmes of work of the subprogrammes (planned) or upon the request of beneficiary countries (demand-driven).

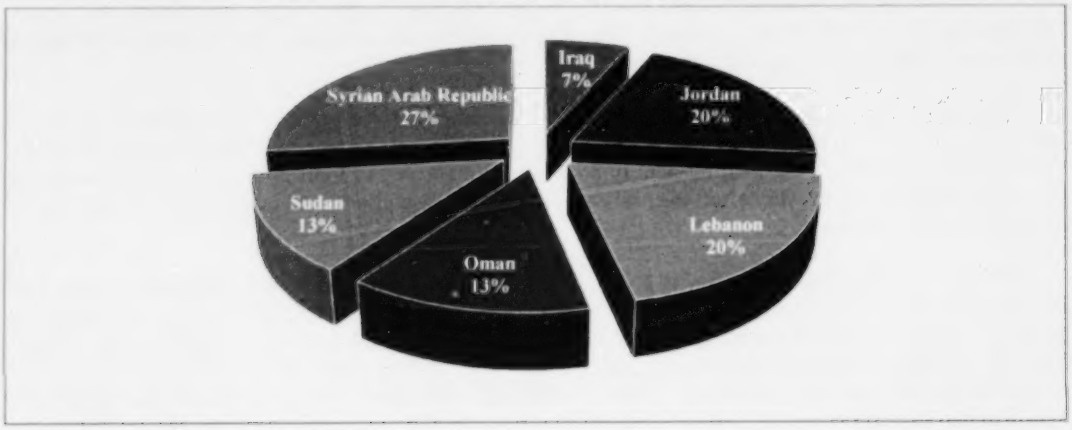
10. ESCWA signed four national technical cooperation frameworks, namely, with Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and the Sudan, which were integrated into the new programming cycle for technical cooperation to increase coherence in the delivery of services on the ground. It also conducted national technical cooperation workshops in preparation for signing frameworks with Iraq and Tunisia.

11. Mauritania, the State of Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen benefitted the most from ESCWA technical cooperation services. Collectively, they accounted for 47 per cent of ESCWA technical cooperation services from the RPTC budget namely, advisory services and capacity-building workshops. Furthermore, ESCWA implemented 56 regional, subregional and national training sessions under the umbrella of Development Account projects, 12 of which were led by ESCWA and 2 in which ESCWA was a partner. Twenty-seven training manuals were produced for policymakers. Of the 12 Development Account projects led by ESCWA, Mauritania participated in 8, the Sudan in 11, the State of Palestine in 9 and Yemen in 5.

A. SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

12. The objective of subprogramme 1 is to achieve the integrated management of natural resources, leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream sustainable goals into regional and national policies. The workplan for the subprogramme includes advisory services, targeted policies in the areas of sustainable development, water management issues, climate change adaptation and the green economy.

Figure 1. Services provided under subprogramme 1



13. Over the biennium 2016-2017, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, benefited from advisory services providing policy recommendations, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing through fellowships and capacity development measures in areas such as sustainable development, green economy, and integrated management of land and water resources.

14. ESCWA integrated its research and analysis work into capacity-enhancing and advisory services while implementing the subprogramme. It produced the *Arab Climate Change Assessment Report* in 2017 under the extrabudgetary Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR). The report presented a comprehensive analysis on the impact of climate change on freshwater resources in the Arab region until the end of the century and how this will affect the vulnerability of water resources, agriculture, natural ecosystems, human settlements and people. The report synthesized and built upon multiple regular budget, extrabudgetary, Development Account and RPTC initiatives on climate change that ESCWA has been implementing since 2010, in collaboration with regional and international partners. Over the biennium 2016-2017, the subprogramme published the *Water Development Report* and produced 22 technical reports, parliamentary documentation and background documents for meetings on climate change. The Development Account project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools complemented ongoing work under RICCAR by assessing how vulnerable groups and key sectors, including agriculture, economy, environment and health, are affected by climate change. RPTC funding also contributed to building the capacity of policymakers in the region on global climate change negotiations, and to familiarizing government officials with the outcomes of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Thirteen member States prepared their voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including targets/plans related to climate change issues and intended nationally determined contributions.

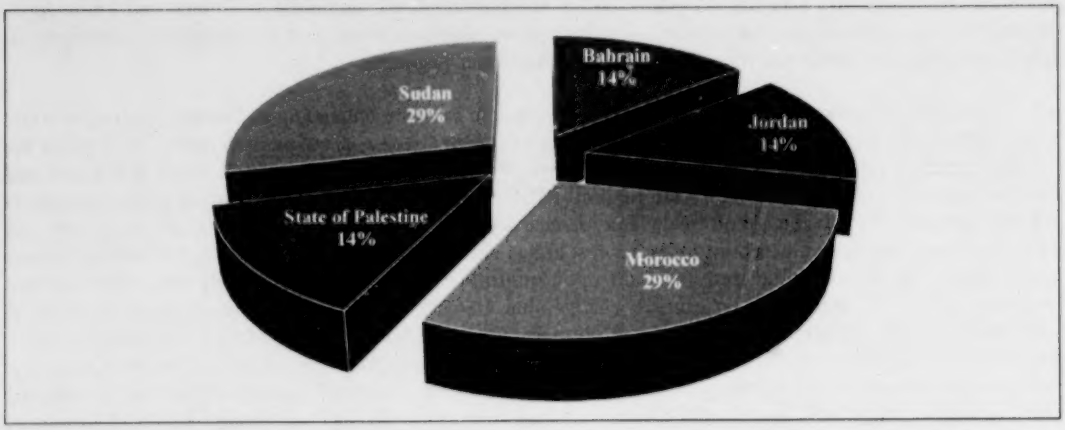
15. Moreover, ESCWA contributed to the formulation of a strategy for establishing a Lebanese national system for technology transfer in oil- and gas-related industries. In the Sudan, ESCWA extended support to the development and drafting of energy efficiency laws. In the Syrian Arab Republic, ESCWA assisted the Ministry of Electricity to prioritize activities and draft a business plan for restructuring the electricity sector. ESCWA also provided advanced training to Oman on geographic information system methods for regional water resource maps.

16. ESCWA work also contributed to enhancing capacities in the environment, water and energy sectors. The Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network carried out regionally focused activities on water governance, water integrity and hydro-diplomacy. ESCWA provided advisory support to the Arab Union of Electricity to build capacity in energy efficiency and minimize the grid's technical losses. It also assisted member States in implementing the Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production by identifying top performers in the Arab region in priority areas of sustainable consumption and production.

B. Subprogramme 2. Social development

17. The objective of subprogramme 2 is to enhance the capacity of member States to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development. Advisory services have focused on the strategic realignment of priorities, especially integrated social protection, migration and disability. Under this subprogramme, ESCWA delivered advisory services to Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, the State of Palestine and the Sudan.

Figure 2. Services provided under subprogramme 2



18. The normative work of ESCWA, which produced analytical work including the *Social Development Report 2: Inequality, Autonomy and Change in the Arab Region*, capitalized on technical support provided under the auspices of a Development Account project entitled "Promoting equality: strengthening the capacity of select developing countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes". Under the project, ESCWA implemented four training workshops in the Sudan and Tunisia on measuring inequality and developing inequality-sensitive public policies, and developed tool kits for policymakers. Moreover, ESCWA produced training material on integrating social justice principles in national and local development plans in the Arab region under a second Development Account project entitled "Social justice in Arab countries: challenges and recommended courses of action".

19. The Commission's normative work on disability in the region and its complementary technical support were among factors contributing to important reforms. For instance, Jordan and the Sudan issued new overarching disability laws in 2017, while Morocco embarked on a new government strategy to improve access to electronic resources for persons with disabilities. Similarly, ESCWA work on promoting labour mobility and the protection of migrant workers was among the factors influencing policy changes in Bahrain, Morocco and Qatar.

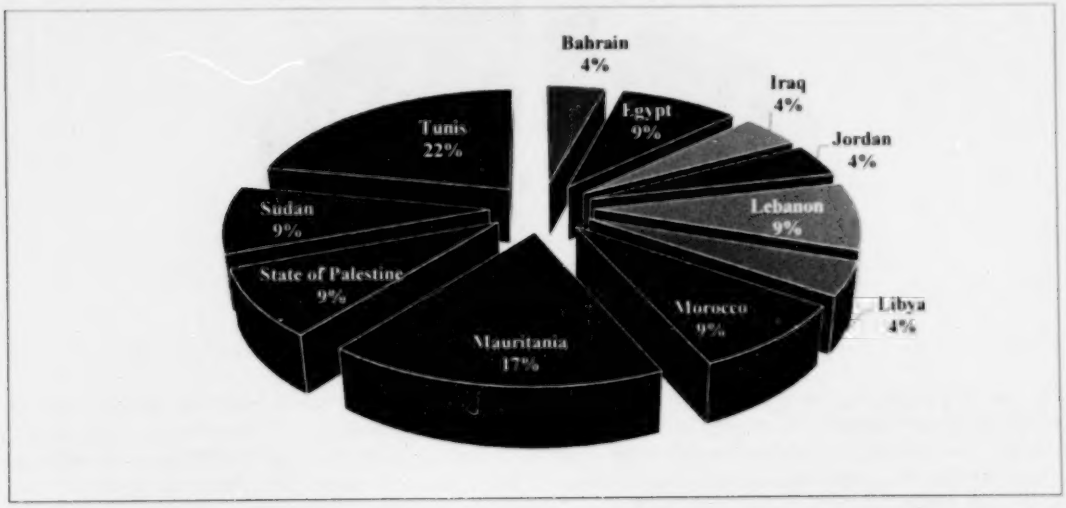
20. In partnership with the League of Arab States, ESCWA participated in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees (ARCP), including the extraordinary ARCP meeting in preparation for the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants (New York, 19 September 2016), resulting in a common position of Arab States in the form of an outcome document that fed into the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

21. Over the biennium 2016-2017, representatives from six member States (Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) and two non-governmental organizations from Lebanon and Oman expressed their commitment to adopt the ESCWA participatory development approach, and to engage in policy dialogues on mainstreaming social justice and equality issues in development plans and programmes. Jordan adopted the ESCWA toolkit on enhancing the participation of Arab youth in public life and in the decision-making process, and took steps to implement the toolkit at the national level.

C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

22. The goal of subprogramme 3 is to achieve a decent standard of living for all people in member States through sustained, inclusive and integrated regional economic development. Twenty-three advisory services were delivered to 11 member States over the biennium 2016-2017, covering various fields contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Figure 3. Services provided under subprogramme 3



23. The subprogramme implemented integrated normative research and capacity-building activities over the biennium 2016-2017, highlighted in ESCWA work on poverty reduction. For example, the *Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report* was launched at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, and the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers of the League of Arab States issued a resolution adopting the report's recommendations. The study proposes new regional multidimensional poverty indices tailored to the Arab region's household and child poverty challenges, and presented analyses of spatial patterns of deprivation and poverty channels. This work has opened new avenues for technical assistance to Iraq, Jordan and Mauritania, among others, in designing their national poverty measures in line with the proposed multidimensional poverty framework.

24. Moreover, ESCWA compiled a composite index on economic justice in the Arab region to gauge its levels by conceptually defining its elements from a policymaking perspective. The index was adopted in several countries, including Bahrain, Lebanon and Oman.

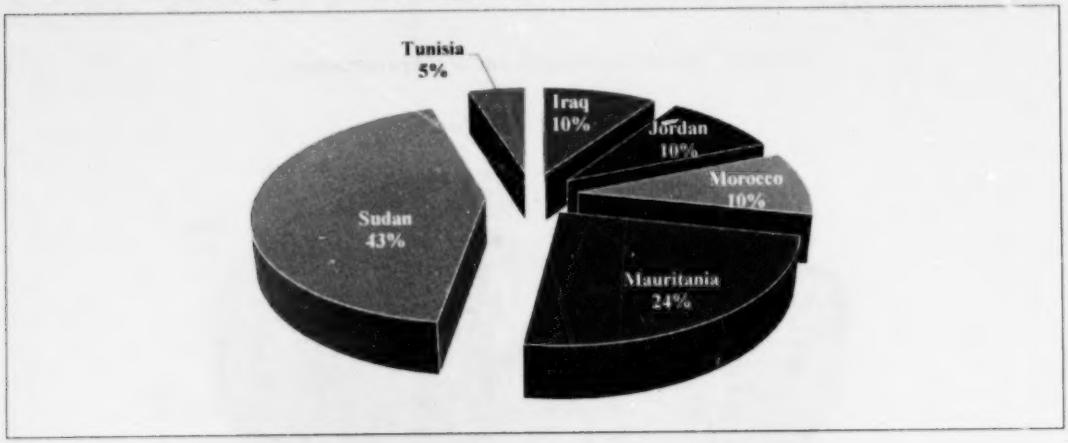
25. With ESCWA support, Saudi Arabia established a trade and transport facilitation committee, and Iraq implemented a single window system as a tool for trade facilitation reform. The Commission also supported Governments in reformulating their tariff policies. For instance, ESCWA assessed the fiscal and economic impact of a new tariff structure adopted by the Government of Tunisia, and the alternative scenarios for a common external tariff in Lebanon. Finally, ESCWA provided training and technical support to member States to facilitate the implementation of the Arab Customs Union.

D. Subprogramme 4. Technology for development and regional integration

26. The objective of subprogramme 4 is to promote inclusive and sustainable development by building an information society and knowledge economy that leverage technology and innovation in accordance with regional development requirements and the outcomes of internationally agreed development objectives.

ESCWA advisory and capacity-building activities focused on the development and enhancement of relevant mechanisms, processes and tools for a knowledge-based economy. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA delivered 21 advisory services to Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Tunisia.

Figure 4. Services provided under subprogramme 4



27. In implementing the subprogramme, ESCWA integrated its research and analytical studies with its technical capacity support initiatives. Working on cybersafety and combating cybercrime in the Arab region, ESCWA produced a detailed analysis of current challenges that built upon its longstanding capacity-building efforts in promoting and coordinating cyberlegislation in the Arab region since 2007. The study entitled *Policy Recommendations on Cybersafety and Combating Cybercrime in the Arab Region* proposes a comprehensive guiding policy framework to enhance cybersecurity and build confidence in information and communications technologies and cyberspace. On the basis of this analytical work, the Commission further expanded its capacity-building and advisory services to Governments to assist with the enactment of effective legislation to regulate cyberspace. ESCWA has provided support to Jordan, Morocco and the State of Palestine in that regard.

28. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA advisory and capacity-building activities focused on assisting member States in leveraging information and communications technologies (ICT) and innovation for socioeconomic development by formulating and evaluating ICT policies, and supporting business process reengineering. Technical support also aimed at enhancing the performance of e-government by formulating improved e-government policies, assessing the maturity of e/m-government services, and developing a national framework for e-service quality. Moreover, ESCWA assisted member States in developing and strengthening their national innovation systems by establishing technology incubators and technology transfer offices. Those activities were implemented in 11 member States, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

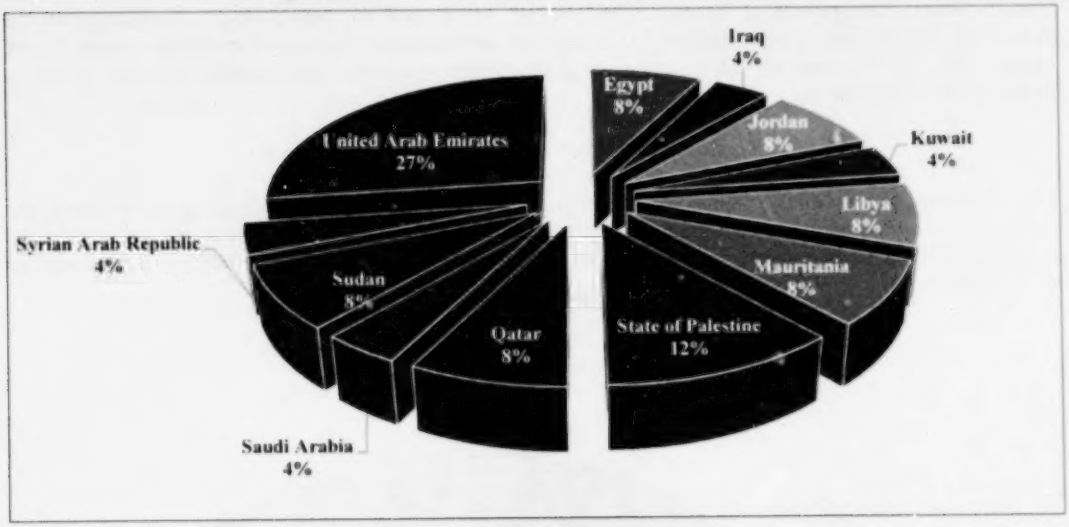
29. ESCWA also assisted member States in implementing policies in the fields of science, technology and innovation and ICT policies. For instance, Jordan is implementing a national road map to develop a national digital strategy and Morocco is preparing a national action plan on digital accessibility. As part of its efforts to enhance knowledge-sharing and South-South exchange, ESCWA established the Arab E-Government Council, which has held several meetings in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

E. Subprogramme 5: Statistics for evidenced-based policymaking

30. Subprogramme 5 seeks to strengthen regional and national statistical systems for the production and dissemination of quality statistics for evidence-based policies aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable

development, regional integration and improved governance. Over the biennium 2016-2017, 26 advisory services were provided to 12 member States in the areas of national accounts and social, gender and environmental statistics.

Figure 5. Services provided under subprogramme 5



31. Over the biennium 2016-2017, activities on research and capacity-building under this subprogramme were integrated, producing an outcome that included the thirty-fifth edition of the Bulletin on National Accounts Studies of the Arab Region, which presents data from the consolidated national accounts of each ESCWA member State over the period 2011-2015, in addition to available data on and estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) at both current and constant prices, and estimates of real GDP growth for 2016. The main objective of national accounts is to analyse and evaluate an economy's performance, which is a prerequisite for informed, rational policymaking and decision-making, including SDG monitoring. The study built on systematic capacity-building efforts by ESCWA, geared towards implementing standardized statistical methodologies and enhancing member States' ability to provide internationally comparable statistics, including implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA) as the overarching integration framework for economic statistics and meeting the 2008 SNA standards. As part of this effort, ESCWA implemented Development Account projects over the biennium 2016-2017 to develop more exhaustive measurements of the size of the informal sector and Islamic financing, as well as their contributions to GDP. Furthermore, ESCWA held nine capacity-building workshops and advisory services on strengthening national accounts systems, targeting Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, the State of Palestine, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. These technical support activities contributed to a region-wide upgrading of statistical systems, whereby all ESCWA member States are currently able to provide at least basic estimates for national accounts.

32. Other technical assistance activities under subprogramme 5 focused on adopting the Global SDG Indicator Framework. ESCWA efforts, including a series of workshops on the institutional environment for SDG-related statistics and sectoral data, enabled member States to launch the production of SDG indicators in line both with the Global Framework and their national strategies for sustainable development. ESCWA has also been instrumental in developing a harmonized approach to the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in the Arab region: 17 member States have requested its assistance in preparing for the upcoming round of censuses, which reflects the effectiveness of the technical support services provided.

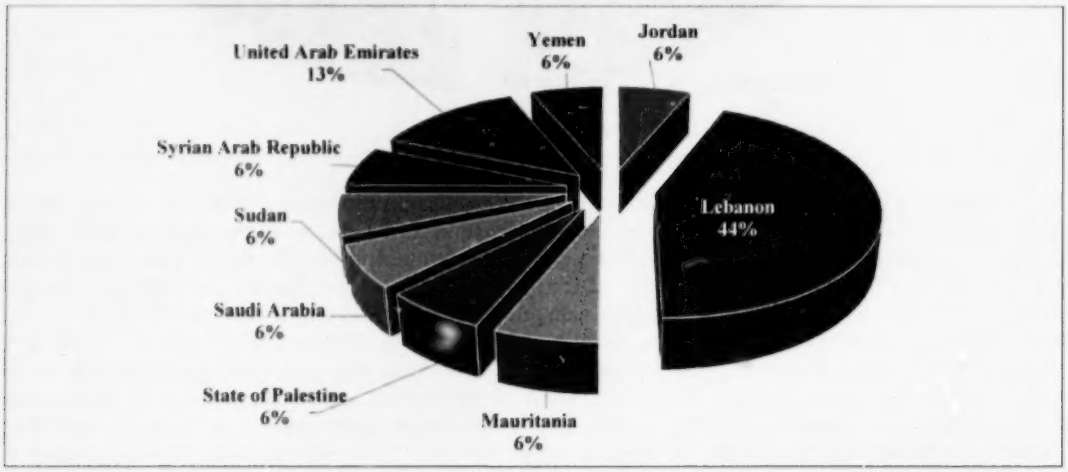
33. Over 1,200 queries have been posted on the ESCWA online statistical portal (http://data.escwa-stat.org/), which is based on nationally sourced statistical data. The portal's data are currently generated by a computerized data management module, which allows clean-up, verification and better structuring of data.

34. ESCWA, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional partners, has supported the assessment of statistical systems and the formulation of national strategies in five countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, the State of Palestine and the Sudan. Preparatory work was launched in other countries, including those affected by conflict.

F. Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women

35. Subprogramme 6 aims to reduce gender imbalances and contribute to strengthening the respect of the rights of women in member States in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences, and encourage the exchange of lessons learned in this field to build a society that guarantees justice without discrimination.

Figure 6. Services provided under subprogramme 6



36. ESCWA provided advisory services to Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen on mainstreaming gender in national development strategies and action plans, so as to promote equality between men and women and to lower the gender gap in access and control of resources and in opportunities.

37. Over the biennium 2016-2017, advisory and capacity-building efforts were closely linked to normative research. For instance, ESCWA produced a major study entitled *Women, Peace and Security: The Role of Institutions in Times of Peace and War in the Arab Region*, which proposes a transformative agenda in Arab countries inspired by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The study built on a series of capacity-building workshops and advisory services targeting policymakers on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which ESCWA carried out under a Development Account project entitled "Institutional and capacity building for Arab parliaments and other stakeholders for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security", and through RPTC funding. Capacity-support entailed holding three expert group meetings and five regional workshops to familiarize 149 participants (including 97 women) from Jordan, Libya, the State of Palestine and the Sudan with the main pillars of Security Council resolution 1325, and to enhance the capacity of national women's machineries in drafting national action plans. In addition, ESCWA held four national workshops for Oman, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab

Emirates on implementing Security Council resolution 1325, and produced needs assessments and training manuals on the subject.

38. ESCWA advocacy and capacity-building roles on Security Council resolution 1325 have increased the number of Arab countries with official women, peace and security strategies. This was accomplished in line with official requests from Arab Governments, reflecting member States obligations under Security Council resolution 1325 that call for drafting national action plans to facilitate the implementation of the resolution and for periodical progress reporting to the United Nations. ESCWA assisted the United Arab Emirates in designing and preparing its women, peace and security strategy, and the Syrian Arab Republic in finalizing its women, peace and security strategy.

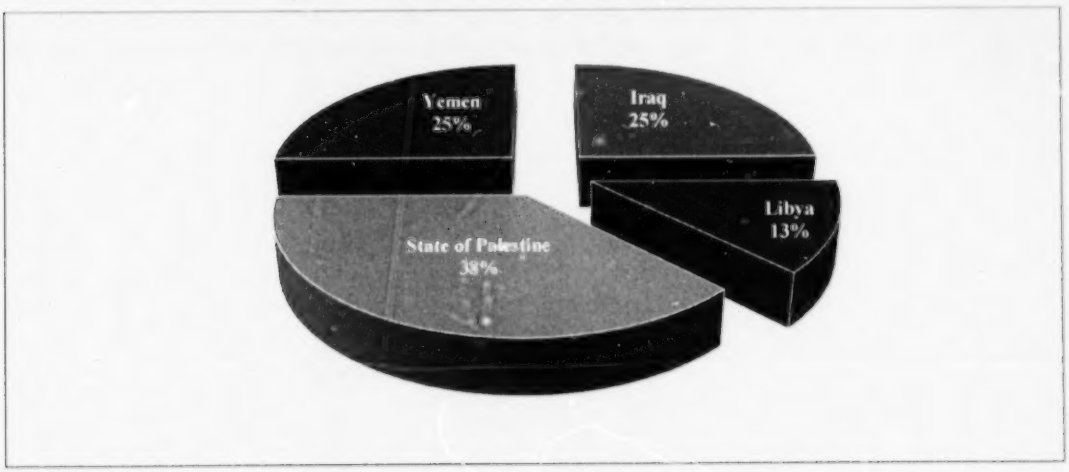
39. ESCWA also contributed to the establishment of national committees advancing the women, peace and security agenda in Lebanon and the Sudan. In Lebanon, ESCWA supported the formation of a drafting committee within the Ministry of State for Women Affairs to formulate the country's women, peace and security strategy and national action plan. In the Sudan, a consultative committee was held under the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security to implement a women, peace and security strategy and national action plan. Moreover, ESCWA is in discussions with Oman to conduct a national capacity-building workshop on linkages between Security Council resolution 1325 and the 2030 Agenda.

40. ESCWA assisted in establishing the following three networks on women's and gender-related issues in the region, to deepen linkages between experts and policymakers and create forums for sharing best practices: the e-Network to enhance mutual learning and disseminate gender-related information between Governments, United Nations staff and civil society organizations; the Arab Working Group on Gender and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emanating from the seventh session of the ESCWA Committee on Women, aimed at assisting Arab countries in developing national strategies on SDG 6; and a network for ESCWA member States to share knowledge, success stories and lessons learned to enhance the situation of women.

G. SUBPROGRAMME 7. CONFLICT MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT

41. Subprogramme 7 seeks to mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region. Given the prevailing political climate in the region, the outputs and activities of subprogramme 7 have become increasingly integral to capacity-building efforts in the areas of governance and post-crisis stabilization.

Figure 7. Services provided under subprogramme 7



42. Under this subprogramme, ESCWA delivered capacity-building and advisory services to member States over the biennium 2016-2017, which complemented and built on its normative work. For instance, the forthcoming Arab Governance Report III on the theme "Institutional development in post conflict settings: towards peaceful, inclusive societies and accountable institutions" addresses the question of rebuilding State institutions as part of post-crisis recovery efforts and to consolidate peace. Moreover, the subprogramme produced a detailed study on a unique decentralization experiment in Iraq. The study identified challenges and proposed recommendations for overcoming bottlenecks and deepening the devolution of powers to local authorities. Those outputs provided the foundation for a number of technical assistance initiatives, including capacity-building workshops on integrating internally displaced persons into the national development strategy of Iraq, developing core competencies within the Iraqi civil service, and launching a pilot project in areas liberated from terrorism to promote human development and reconciliation. Moreover, the subprogramme linked its normative research with activities under an extrabudgetary project entitled "Iraq public sector modernization project II" by holding a capacity-building workshop on the theme "Localizing SDGs and decentralizing public services in Iraq" that enabled participants from three governorates across the country to conduct nuanced institutional assessments of local governance in three ministries, and to develop an action plan for future decentralization reform. The workshop also strengthened the capacity of the Iraqi Higher Commission for Coordinating among Provinces in assessing needs and identifying gaps in the administrative and fiscal decentralization steps of public services. It also enabled government officials to develop a systemic agenda for future reforms to be implemented in collaboration with donor agencies.

43. In the State of Palestine, focus was placed on integrating national development plans with the SDGs, which resulted in three long-term cooperation tracks on SDG 17, human development and institutional development for better essential services. In Yemen, bilateral and focus group discussions fed into the development of an ESCWA long-term engagement strategy to support the country's institutions and enhance their recovery roles in the post-conflict phase. In Lebanon, technical support focused on developing a national governance strategy for civil society organizations and public sector reform, which resulted in the formulation of a national action plan.

44. The subprogramme also succeeded in creating a subregional network for senior Arab civil servants from six member States, aimed at developing core competencies within the public sector and facilitating knowledge-sharing.

II. ADVISORY SERVICES OVER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

45. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA provided 116 advisory services to member States, and implemented 27 regional and subregional training workshops. Table 1 shows that the majority of advisory services rendered were carried out under subprogrammes 3 and 5 on economic development and integration and statistics.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF ADVISORY SERVICES PROVIDED TO ESCWA MEMBER STATES OVER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017 (BY SUBPROGRAMME)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Bahrain		1	1					2
Egypt			2		2			4
Iraq	1		1	2	1		2	7
Jordan	3	1	1	2	2	1		10
Kuwait					1			1
Lebanon	3		2			7		12
Libya			1		2		1	4
Mauritania			4	5	2	1		12
Morocco		2	2	2				6
Oman	2							2
State of Palestine		1	2		3	1	3	10
Qatar					2			2
Saudi Arabia					1	1		2
Sudan	2	2	2	9	2	1		18
Syrian Arab Republic	4				1	1		6
Tunisia			5	1				6
United Arab Emirates					7	2		9
Yemen						1	2	3
Total	15	7	23	21	26	16	8	116

Figure 8. Advisory services by subprogramme

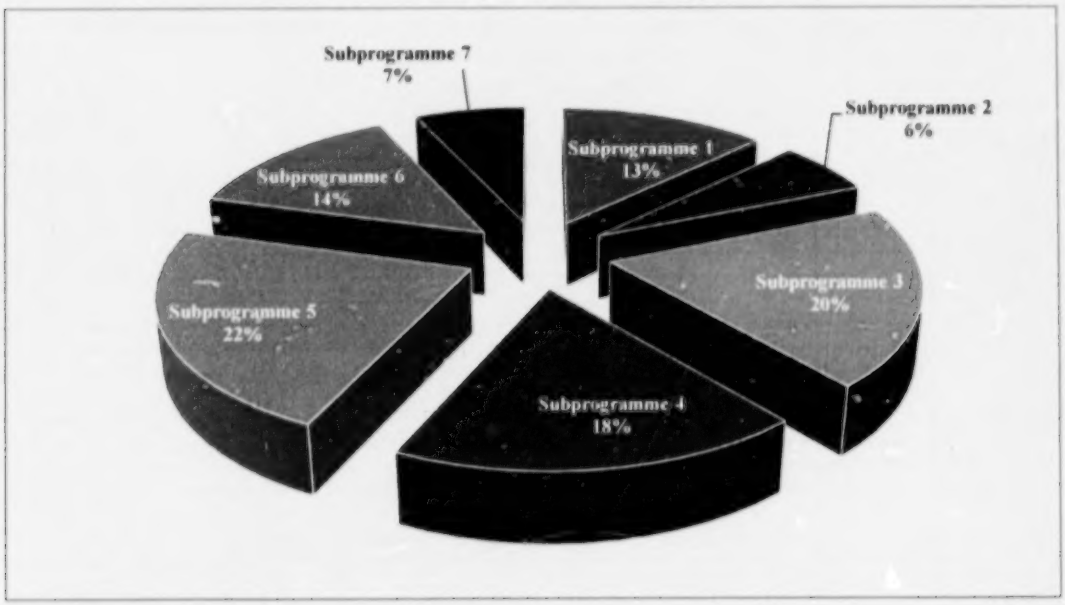
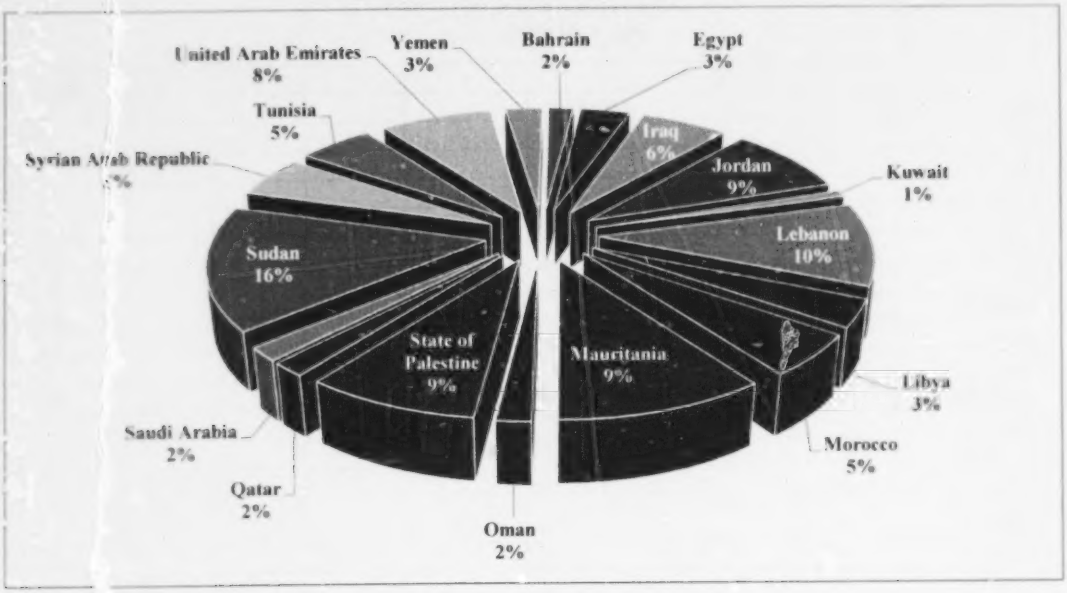


Figure 9. Advisory services by country



III. CAPACITY-BUILDING

46. Table 2 shows the capacity-building activities provided by ESCWA to member States over the biennium 2016-2017.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES PROVIDED TO ESCWA MEMBER STATES OVER THE PERIOD 2016-2017 (BY SUBPROGRAMME)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Bahrain	1		1					2
Egypt	2		2	3	1	1		9
Iraq					1		2	3
Jordan	2	1	2		3			8
Kuwait								0
Lebanon	2	3	2			5		12
Libya					1			1
Mauritania				3		1		4
Morocco	1		1	2	1			5
Oman	1				2			3
State of Palestine		1	2		1	1	1	6
Qatar								0
Saudi Arabia								0
Sudan		1		8	1			10
Syrian Arab Republic	4					1		5
Tunisia				1				1
United Arab Emirates					3	1		4
Yemen						1	1	2
Total	13	6	10	17	14	11	4	75

Figure 10. Capacity-building activities by type

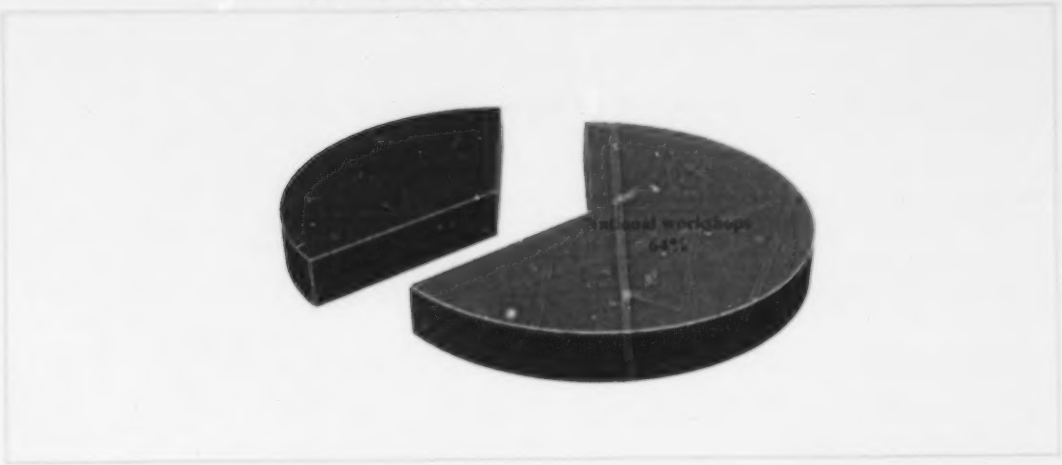
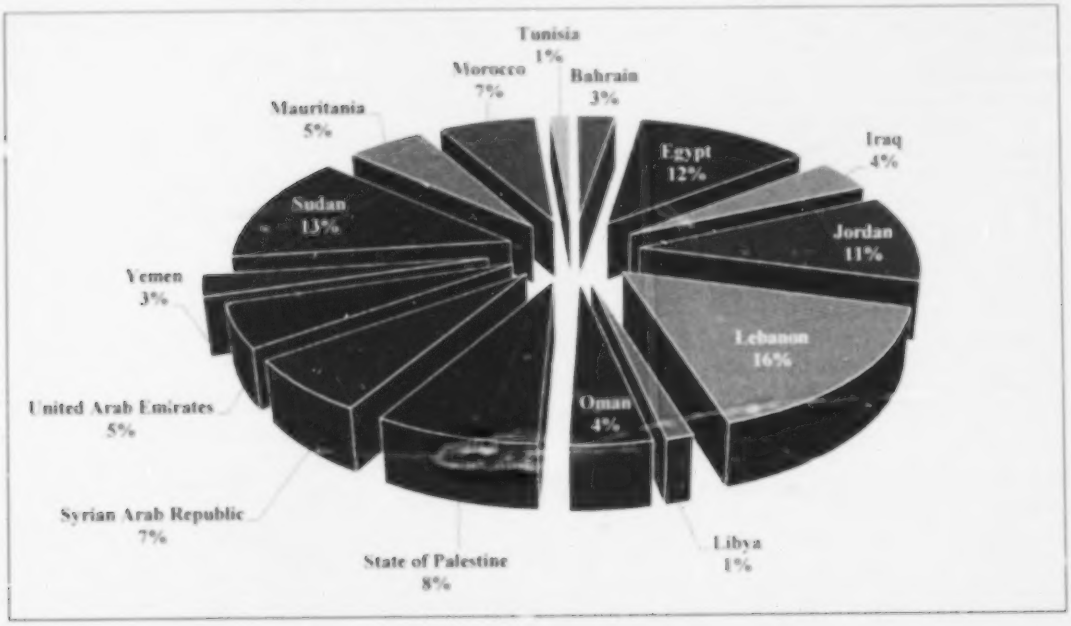


Figure 11. Capacity-building activities by country



IV. STUDY TOURS

47. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA organized 18 study tours for government officials. Study tours are complementary to ongoing ESCWA engagements. They serve to promote South-South cooperation and to facilitate the transfer of good practices. Study tour subjects included: social water studies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the Jordan River basin; statistical issues related to national accounts and short-term indicators; and the sixth Annual Conference by the MENA Governance Institutes Forum for Training (GIFT-MENA) on the theme "Government, governance and the State: the path to capacity".

TABLE 3. STUDY TOURS PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM ESCWA MEMBER STATES

Activity	Member State	No. of participants
International Water Conference 2016 on the theme "Water Resources in Arid Areas: The Way Forward" (Muscat, 13-16 March 2016)	Iraq	1
	Morocco	1
	State of Palestine	1
	Tunisia	1
International Specialized Course Programme on the theme "Smart and Integration of Renewable Energy Projects" (Spain, Granada, 25-30 April 2016)	State of Palestine	1
	Sudan	1
	Yemen	1
Moroccan and Palestinian officials visit ESCWA to learn about the work of the different divisions and discuss their national priorities in terms of technical cooperation (31 March-1 April 2016 and 12-13 May 2016, respectively)	Morocco	2
	State of Palestine	3
Consultative meeting on Yemen's reconstruction and rehabilitation (Beirut, 22-23 February 2016)	Yemen	3
Towards an integrated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020: Perspectives from African and Arab LDCs (28 May 2016, Antalya)	Yemen	2
	Mauritania	1
	Sudan	1
GIFT-MENA Network Annual Conference on Governance, Fragility and Sustainable Development (Paris, 12-14 October 2016)	State of Palestine	2
Fourth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (Geneva, 17-18 November 2016)	State of Palestine	1
Representatives from the Environment Quality Authority participated in the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Marrakesh, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016)	State of Palestine	2
Discuss with ESCWA the Palestinian project document on implementing a census of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (Beirut, February 2017)	State of Palestine	7
Representatives of the Syrian National Authority for Family and Population Affairs visited ESCWA to learn about the Centre for Women's work and discuss national priorities in terms of technical cooperation; the content of capacity-development workshops and their duration, participation and expected outputs; and the role of national women's machineries in informing national dialogue towards mainstreaming gender within national planning frameworks (Beirut, 27 March 2017)	Syrian Arab Republic	2
Trilateral meeting with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD/ESCWA/State of Palestine to discuss costing the impact of the Israeli occupation (Beirut, 13 March 2017)	State of Palestine	2
Third Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Development Indicators (Amman, 13-15 March 2017)	Iraq	6
	Lebanon	
	State of Palestine	
	Sudan	
	Syrian Arab Republic	
	Yemen	
Sixty-first World Statistics Conference (Marrakech, 16-21 July 2017)	State of Palestine	1
Workshop on national mechanisms to implement the SDGs (Amman, 8-10 August 2017)	Egypt	1
	State of Palestine	1
Second consultative meeting on the cost of Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people (Geneva, 2-4 October 2017)	State of Palestine	1
Ninth meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Ramallah, 7-9 November 2017)	Iraq	1
	Morocco	1
	Total	48

V. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

48. The Development Account was introduced into the United Nations programme budget pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/15. It finances multi-year projects intended to enhance the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the United Nations development agenda. These projects are in line with the expected accomplishments of the ESCWA subprogrammes. They strengthen ESCWA normative and analytical work and encourage interdivisional and interregional cooperation.

49. For the eighth tranche (T8), ESCWA was designated as the lead agency for five projects, three of which were still active in 2016 and focused on the following themes: "Institutional and capacity-building for Arab parliaments and other stakeholders for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security"; "Developing the capacities of the Arab countries for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management tools in key sectors"; and "Building capacities in developing appropriate green technologies for improving the livelihood of rural communities in the ESCWA region". All eighth tranche projects closed in 2017.

50. For the ninth tranche (T9), ESCWA led the implementation of the following five projects: "Strengthening the statistical capacity of ESCWA member States in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth"; "Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region"; "Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development"; "Developing the capacity of ESCWA member States to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals"; and "Establishing national technology development and transfer systems in select ESCWA member States". The projects were concluded on time, by 31 December 2017, except for one, "Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region", which has been extended until September 2018 on programmatic grounds, owing to significant achievements and in order to amplify its impact by taking into consideration country demand for additional support. Moreover, ESCWA was an implementing partner in two other projects of the ninth tranche: the first, led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, focused on "Promoting equality: Strengthening the capacity of select developing countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes"; and the second, led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, aimed at "Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies".

51. For the tenth tranche (T10), ESCWA was designated as the lead agency for the following four projects: "Fostering institutional development for participatory approaches towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia"; "Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region"; "Facilitating the implementation of the Arab Customs Union"; and "Implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Enhancing the capacities of Arab countries". ESCWA is also taking part in the implementation of the T10 "Programme for Statistics and Data" led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

52. Table 4 summarizes the initial funding information on ESCWA-led Development Account projects that were active in the biennium 2016-2017.

TABLE 4. FUNDING FOR ESCWA-LED PROJECTS UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT, 2016-2017

Tranche	Project title	Funding year	Initial funding ($)
8	Institutional and capacity-building for Arab parliaments and other stakeholders for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security	2013	509,945
8	Developing the capacities of the Arab countries for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resource management tools in key sectors	2013	517,000
8+	Building capacities in developing appropriate green technologies for improving the livelihood of rural communities in the ESCWA region	2014	590,936
9	Strengthening the statistical capacity of ESCWA member States in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth	2014	518,000
9	Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region	2014	714,000
9	Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development	2014	632,000
9	Developing the capacity of ESCWA member States to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals	2014	525,000
9+	Establishing national technology development and transfer systems in select ESCWA member States	2015	497,000
10	Fostering institutional development for participatory approaches towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia	2016	666,000
10	Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region	2016	301,000
10	Facilitating the implementation of the Arab Customs Union	2016	597,000
10+	Implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Enhancing the capacities of Arab countries	2016	598,608
	Total		6,666,489

53. Throughout the biennium 2016-2017, and under the Development Account projects listed above in which ESCWA was the lead agency and an implementing partner in two additional projects, the Commission completed 116 activities, including advisory missions, capacity-building workshops and expert group meetings, in addition to special events and other activities (table 5).

54. ESCWA carried out 13 advisory missions to project countries in the different areas covered by Development Account projects. ESCWA also built the capacity of large numbers of stakeholders through 55 training workshops. Moreover, ESCWA brought together experts, officials and decision makers from the region to share knowledge and experiences at 19 expert group meetings on different themes tackled by the Development Account projects. Two study tours were also organized under the project on "Strengthening the statistical capacity of ESCWA member States in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth", during which 19 participants gained knowledge from organizational experiences in the field of short-term economic indicators, rapid estimates and economic tendency surveys. Producing training material is also an important part of the projects: over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA prepared 27 different

training modules, including manuals, guidebooks, policy and operational toolkits, sectoral studies and online platforms for knowledge-sharing.

TABLE 5. ESCWA ACTIVITIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS, 2016-2017

	Number of Development Account events		
	2016	2017	Total
Advisory missions	8	5	13
Training workshops	22	34	56
Expert group meetings	6	13	19
Special events	1	1	2
Training material related activities			27
Total			117

VI. EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

55. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA received $10.1 million in extrabudgetary resources to implement national and regional activities, compared with $8.9 million in the previous biennium. Voluntary contributions were received from other United Nations organizations, international and regional funding organizations, and civil society institutions. Major contributors during the biennium 2016-2017 included the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Government of Germany, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Jordanian Higher Council for Science and Technology, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Furthermore, the Government of Qatar provided funding to ESCWA to hold the twenty-ninth ministerial session in Doha.

56. Increased frequency and level of voluntary contributions by member States will enable ESCWA to meet growing needs in the region, by expanding both the scope and nature of its advisory and capacity-building services and field projects.

57. Examples of extrabudgetary activities carried out by ESCWA include projects on Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, which provide platforms for articulating nationally owned visions for post-conflict societies.

VII. STRENGTHING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK

58. The Technical Cooperation Network (TCN) aims to strengthen coordination, networking and the exchange of best practices among national focal points. TCN meetings facilitate the regular sharing of innovative technical support initiatives from across the region and the identification of expertise, thereby creating opportunities to establish effective partnerships between stakeholders in member States. The Network also enables ESCWA to better identify the priorities of its member States, thus enhancing the long-term value added from its technical cooperation services.

59. Based on recommendations made at the fifth TCN meeting, held in Doha on 12 December 2016, TCN meetings should take place annually and back-to-back with the ESCWA Executive Committee. The last TCN meeting was held in Beirut on 12 December 2017. The next meeting will take place in the last quarter of 2018.

VIII. RESULTS-BASED TECHNICAL COOPERATION

60. The aim of ESCWA technical support is to induce changes in institutional environments and policy frameworks. This is part of the Commission's larger efforts to build member States' capacity to effectively mobilize resources and instigate structural transformations towards inclusive sustainable development. As such, ESCWA technical support, while responding to emerging demands in national contexts, is guided by principles of result-based programming and visions of desired long-term transformations resulting from its interventions. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA signed four national technical cooperation

frameworks with Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and the Sudan. It also prepared draft national technical cooperation frameworks with Iraq and Tunisia. To identify priority areas for technical support in member States, ESCWA holds multisectoral national workshops with stakeholders from all concerned ministries. Through participatory working group discussions, government stakeholders identify needs using an integrated approach. In this process, particular attention is paid to mainstreaming gender, or how potential technical assistance activities affect the respective roles of men and women. Moreover, in identifying technical assistance needs and desired activities, stakeholders are urged to articulate the desired outcomes and long-term visions for change as a result of the requested capacity support initiatives.

IX. CHALLENGES

61. Over the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA succeeded in increasing its RPTC funds by $468,000, targeted towards hiring a regional advisor on the 2030 Agenda and expanding operational activities. The increase in funding was needed to service rising demand for ESCWA services. However, the Commission remains constrained in its ability to deliver services, both by limited staff time and areas of technical expertise. Against this backdrop, ESCWA plans to rely more on promoting South-South cooperation, developing peer networks, establishing forums for knowledge-sharing, and building closer cooperation with United Nations country teams to ensure increased coverage and sustainability of results.

62. In the light of the Commission's reorientation towards result-based management, advisory services now aim to build on normative research and training efforts to facilitate policy shifts, verify results, and identify gaps and needs on the ground. In other words, effective implementation requires ensuring that beyond the provision of high quality capacity support services, decision makers are enabled to translate their newly acquired knowledge and skills into improved policies and initiatives. However, continued instability in the region often creates narrow windows for initiating reform, and changes at the policy level require time before becoming fully institutionalized.

63. RPTC also faces the challenge of balancing the provision of region-wide services with responding to member States' different requests based on nationally defined development agendas and capacity-building requirements. This reflects the growing disparity in institutional capacity support needs in some policy areas across the region. While in some cases, synergies and shared capacity needs facilitated regional and subregional interventions, in other cases, capacity-building workshops and advisory services needed to be tailored to the specific needs of individual countries.

X. WAY FORWARD

64. Going forward, there is a need for RPTC to further systematize technical cooperation national workshops to develop technical cooperation country plans that focus on assessed needs and anticipated priorities. It is also necessary to enhance multidisciplinary missions to better serve member States in addressing challenges that are often interdependent and multidimensional.

65. ESCWA should forge strategic alliances with regional training foundations, think tanks and academic institutions to foster effective mechanisms for sustainable skill development, including a fellowship programme for policymakers in the region. Such alliances will allow ESCWA to capitalize on existing expertise to ensure faster responses to member States' technical cooperation requests.

66. ESCWA should also improve partnerships with United Nations organizations and other stakeholders, leading to more integrated programmes. ESCWA aims to modify and improve its technical cooperation services by utilizing innovative procedures and methods in its implementation of technical cooperation activities. Over the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will develop country plans, in coordination with United Nations country teams, national focal points and concerned ministries. This strategy will allow ESCWA to deliver a more structured, efficient and effective response to member States' requests while maximizing its resources.

Annex I*

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS UNDER EACH SUBPROGRAMME, 2016-2017

Workshop	Number of participants	Female participants	Venue	Date
Subprogramme 1: Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development				
Advanced training workshop on the use of GIS methods for the development of regional water resources maps for Oman	25	5	Oman	10-21 January 2016
Sixth regional training workshop on capacity development for climate change negotiations for the Arab countries	30	10	Egypt	3-6 April 2016
National round table meeting to discuss the training programme to support the national capacity-building in the electricity utilities	10	2	Lebanon/ Syrian Arab Republic	8-9 June 2016
Subregional workshop on energy efficiency in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity systems	30	10	Jordan	4-5 September 2016
Seventh regional workshop on capacity development for climate change negotiations for the Arab countries	30	10	Morocco	25-29 September 2016
Expert training workshop on electricity sector reform and restructuring in the Syrian Arab Republic	20	5	Syrian Arab Republic	25-26 January 2017
Regional workshop on the role of regulatory water agencies in efficient water management	20	10	Bahrain	27-30 March 2017
Eight regional workshop on capacity development for climate change negotiations for the Arab countries	50	15	Lebanon	10-13 April 2017
Training workshop on transforming electric public establishments in the Syrian Arab Republic into commercial companies	25	10	Syrian Arab Republic	25-26 April 2017
National training workshop on improving governance of electric public establishments in the Syrian Arab Republic	25	5	Syrian Arab Republic	23-24 May 2017
Subregional workshop on power purchase agreements for large-scale renewable energy: details, pitfalls, and crucial articles	25	5	Jordan	8-9 October 2017
Ninth regional workshop on capacity development for climate change negotiations for the Arab countries	30	10	Egypt	9-12 October 2017
National consultative meeting of experts on national systems for technology transfer with case studies in gas-related industries	10	2	Lebanon	4 December 2017
Subprogramme 2: Social development				
Regional workshop on the 2016 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development	40	7	Jordan	29-30 May 2016

* Issued as submitted.

Workshop	Number of participants	Female participants	Venue	Date
Regional workshop on the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability in the Arab region	45	10	Lebanon	20-21 September 2016
National workshop on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Palestine	25	3	Jordan/ State of Palestine	26-28 November 2016
Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Sudan: Awareness-raising and advocacy workshop	20	5	Sudan	15-19 January 2017
Regional workshop on changes in public expenditure on social protection in Arab countries	25	10	Lebanon	26-27 July 2017
Subregional training workshop on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market	35	10	Lebanon	4-6 December 2017
Subprogramme 3: Economic development and integration				
Regional meeting for the Arab Group in the WTO to address the Nairobi outcomes and implementation issues	17	6	Jordan	22-24 February 2016
National workshop on tax treaties	25	10	Bahrain	27-31 March 2016
National ESCWA intermediate workshop on roads landscape design to enhance road safety in Lebanon	29	6	Lebanon	13-14 April 2016
Regional training workshop on multidimensional poverty measurement in the Arab region	30	13	Jordan	31 October – 3 November 2016
National workshop on rules of origin in international trade: concepts, techniques and application for the Arab region	30	10	Morocco	22-24 December 2016
Regional training workshop on GIS application for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab States	50	15	Egypt	22 January 2017
National workshop on international contemporary issues in international taxation	25	5	Egypt	20-23 February 2017
National workshop on supporting competition and completion policy in the State of Palestine	20	3	State of Palestine	3-4 May 2017
National workshop on strategic planning for sustainable transport sector in Palestine	20	3	State of Palestine	24-25 April 2017
National workshop on negotiations skills for a common external tariff for Lebanon	25	4	Lebanon	18-19 October 2017
Subprogramme 4: Technology for development and regional integration				
Regional workshop on the survey for the impact assessment and improvement of the Arab Internet Governance Forum, and the Second Meeting of the AIGF2020 Initiative's Technical Cooperation Working Group	30	10	Egypt	11-13 October 2016

Workshop	Number of participants	Female participants	Venue	Date
National workshop on the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the Arab region	30	10	Sudan	20-22 November 2016
Workshop on the innovation and technology transfer landscape in the Sudan	30	10	Sudan	23 November 2016
Second national workshop on the establishment of a national technology transfer office	30	10	Mauritania	19-20 December 2016
Regional workshop on the outputs of the AIGF2020 Initiative's Technical Cooperation Working Group	30	10	Egypt	20-22 December 2016
National training workshop on the integration of technology in higher education for sustainable development	30	10	Morocco	21-22 December 2016
Two national training workshops on the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the Arab region	20	5	Sudan	26-28 March 2017
National workshop on developing technology incubators in the Sudan	20	5	Sudan	29 March 2017
National workshop on developing a framework for e-service quality in the Sudan	20	5	Sudan	30 March 2017
Two national workshops on (1) e-government strategies and on (2) e-government measurable indicators	20	5	Mauritania	9-14 April 2017
Subregional workshop on fostering innovation in the public sectors of Arab countries	25	10	Egypt	30-31 October 2017
National workshop on technology for persons with disability	25	5	Morocco	26-30 October 2017
National workshop on NTTO in the Sudan (legal framework and suggested structure)	25	5	Sudan	16 December 2017
National workshop on an ICT observatory in the Sudan	20	5	Sudan	18-19 Dec. 2017
Subprogramme 5: Statistics for evidence-based policymaking				
Regional training workshop on supply and use in the Arab region	25	10	Jordan	3-8 April 2016
National workshop on input and output tables	20	10	State of Palestine	17-20 April 2017
National consultative workshop on the use of new technology in the population and housing census	25	10	Sudan	1-2 June 2016
Regional workshop on statistical business registers	30	12	Jordan	25-29 September 2016

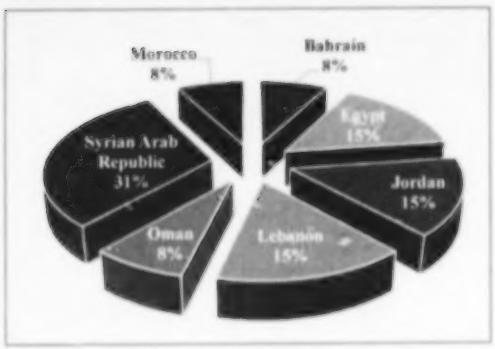
Workshop	Number of participants	Female participants	Venue	Date
Regional workshop on the principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system, revision 3, for Arabic-speaking countries	30	10	Oman	14-17 November 2016
Regional meeting on disability measurement and statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme	30	14	Oman	12-14 December 2016
Second regional workshop on the 2020 round of population and housing censuses	20	5	Egypt	22-23 January 2017
National training workshop on methods and sources used for compiling regional GDP estimates for the Emirates level	25	3	United Arab Emirates	22-26 January 2017
Job training workshop for staff of the RAK Centre of Statistics on "Demographic and social indicators"	20	3	United Arab Emirates	22 February- 2 March 2017
Third regional working group meeting on sustainable development indicators	20	5	Jordan	13-15 March 2017
Regional workshop on improving disability statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab countries	26	18	Morocco	17-20 April 2017
National training on compiling supply and use for Iraq	15	3	Iraq	14-17 August 2017
National workshop on the population and housing censu. : How federal systems design and implement population census	15	9	United Arab Emirates	16-17 October 2017
National workshop on indicators of industrial producers' prices	4	4	Libya	18-20 December 2017
Subprogramme 6: Advancement of women				
National workshop on Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security	30	10	Abu Dhabi	30 May - 2 June 2016
Regional capacity-building workshop on the adoption of the 2030 development agenda on gender and the SDGs	30	15	Lebanon	17-18 August 2016
National training workshop on gender and SDGs and the strategies for women empowerment and political participation	25	5	Mauritania	20-23 March 2017
National workshop on building capacities of the Lebanese Council for Women on political participation and political empowerment	20	5	Lebanon	28 February - 3 March 2017
Training workshop responding to SDG5 in the Syrian Arabic Republic	20	5	Syrian Arab Republic	27-28 March 2017
Capacity-building workshop on enhancing Yemeni women's capacity and promoting political participation and the women, peace and security agenda	20	5	Yemen	4-6 April 2017

Workshop	Number of participants	Female participants	Venue	Date
Third regional workshop for members of the subcommittee on the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda on gender and the SDGs	20	10	Lebanon	8-10 May 2017
Regional consultation meeting on estimating the cost of violence against women	25	10	Alexandria, Egypt	24-25 October 2017
National training workshop on international mechanisms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women: between the text and judicial application, targeting the Lebanese judiciary	25	10	Lebanon	13 October 2017
Technical meeting to discuss the costing of violence in the State of Palestine	11	5	State of Palestine	20-21 November 2017
National workshop on the role of the media and academia in implementing the women, peace and security agenda in Lebanon	35	10	Lebanon	28-29 November 2017
Subprogramme 7: Conflict mitigation and development				
Introductory workshop on Yemen's recovery and reconciliation	30	10	Egypt	24-25 November 2016
Preliminary workshop on internally displaced persons and refugees in Iraq and the requirements of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda	30	6	Iraq	21-23 February 2017
National workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals for staff of the State of Palestine: Partnerships for empowering a future State of Palestine: Sustainable Development Goal 17 and South-South and triangular cooperation	25	12	State of Palestine	27-28 April 2017
National workshop on localizing the SDGs and decentralized public services in Iraq	35	10	Iraq	6-9 November 2017

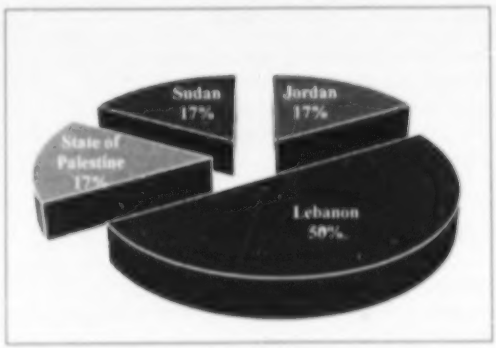
Annex II

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS BY COUNTRY UNDER EACH SUBPROGRAMME, 2016-2017

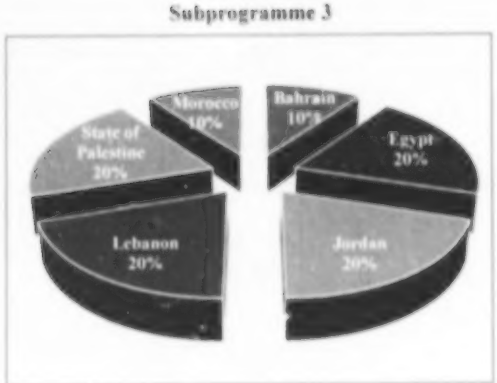
Subprogramme 1



Subprogramme 2



Subprogramme 3



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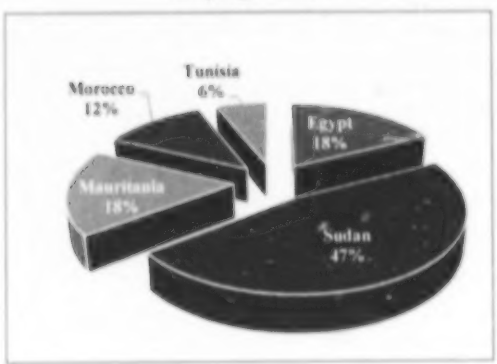
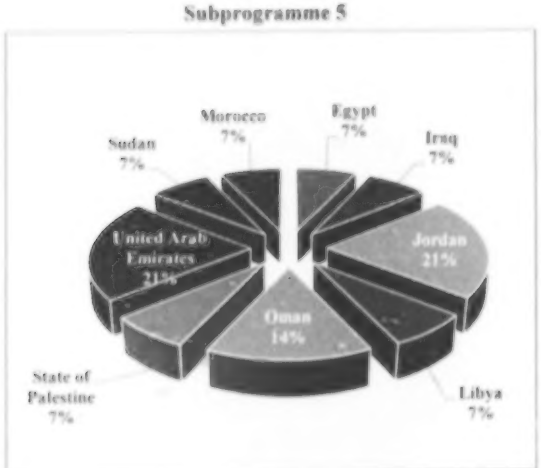
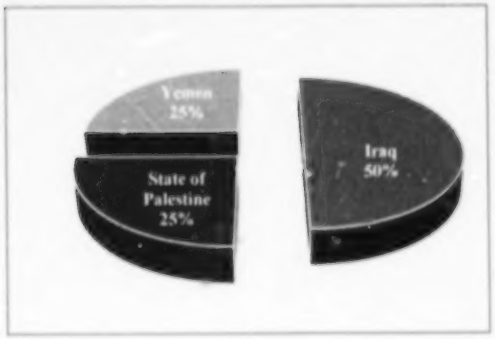


Subprogramme 5



Subprogramme 6



Subprogramme 7